

ELIZABETH'S STORY

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- Part two: Palace life as Princess Margaret's marriage collapsed
- Spoilt and capricious, the shy Queen's little sister

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Newcastle races away

- Ginola inspires his team to nine-point Premiership lead
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Modern commandments set out

Schools must teach new code of values

By DAVID CHARTER AND JILL SHERMAN

SCHOOLS must adopt a modern ten commandments to give children a moral grounding and teach them the difference between right and wrong, the Government's chief curriculum adviser will say today.

The rules should be agreed nationally and set in stone to underpin everything taught in schools, Dr Nick Tate will tell a conference in London today.

His strategy to help schools to fill a void left by the diminishing authority of the Church and decline in traditional family values will be outlined as Labour develops its plans to improve children's behaviour.

These include using retired people to supervise troublesome children at "homework clubs", encouraging young adults to help out in schools, and making "citizen's service" a part of the school curriculum.

Dr Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, says that some schools already have statements of values for their pupils, but he believes the idea should be extended nationally.

"There is no doubt we have lost the robust intellectual basis for our moral life we once had," he said. "If values are universal things and not just the tastes and cultural preferences of particular

groups, we may need some broader national agreement on those values that society is authorising schools to teach."

Once agreed, the code would be non-negotiable. His suggested commandments would cover:

- Honesty;
- Respect for others;
- Politeness;
- A sense of fair play;
- Forgiveness;
- Punctuality;
- Non-violent behaviour;
- Patience;
- Faithfulness;
- Self-discipline.

"People have been arguing about and formulating these things for 3,000 years or more," he said. "But this would have the symbolic significance of the country saying 'we are behind you schools' in trying to promote these things."

Dr Tate also believes that personal and social education, traditionally a weekly session to discuss morality, health and sexuality, should have a more formal aim. He says its main priorities should include "contributing to society's efforts to maintain structures centred on the two-parent family".

He said: "I don't think schools have always thought through how they are using this time. Without a structure it can degenerate into an incoherent mishmash. The objectives need to be much more

prescriptive than they have been because there are certain values that we want to transmit."

Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, also spoke yesterday of his plans to help schools and the community work together to improve standards. Last month, he published a paper outlining home-school contracts where parents would be required to promise that their children would complete work given. Now, he says that parents who failed to do so would be advised that a "mentor" would take over the responsibility.

Such mentors were likely to be retired people who would act as volunteers supervising children in "homework clubs".

These would probably be in schools, and would be designed to help children who do not have the space or privacy to do their homework at home.

He is also exploring other ideas to improve discipline in schools and broaden skills. He is keen on encouraging both unemployed youths and students in higher and further education to help out in schools and he is looking at a scheme developed by the Community Service Volunteers where university students spend half a day a week helping secondary school children with projects or tasks in subjects of which they have some knowledge.

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND
IN KANCHANABURI, THAILAND
RICHARD DUCE

A BUDDHIST monk murdered the missing British law student Johanne Masheder during a robbery close to the site of the Bridge on the River Kwai. That police said yesterday.

The monk, a convicted rapist, is said to have confessed to killing Miss Masheder, 23, while high on drugs. Her body was found in a ravine near a

Buddhist temple in Kanchanaburi, west of Bangkok.

Miss Masheder, of Winslade, Cheshire, who was on a three-month round-the-world trip, was last seen alive in early December. Her parents went to Thailand ten days after her last telephone call to them on December 7 and yesterday Mr Masheder identified his daughter's body.

Police named the monk as Phra Yodchart Saphoo, 21, who admitted pushing Miss Masheder down a ravine. The monk, an amphetamine addict, had previously spent two years in jail for rape.

Tests showed that Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York University, who was about to start work as a trainee solicitor, had been raped but Saphoo denied this. Three other monks were questioned but later released.

The breakthrough in the search for Miss Masheder came when a local teacher

recalled meeting her on December 9 and introducing her to a £5-a-night guesthouse overlooking the River Kwai.

Next day Miss Masheder cycled three miles to the Allied War Cemetery at Chongkhol and then to the Buddhist Temple of Tham Kaopon to see its famous caves.

At the entrance she met Saphoo who told police: "I got up and offered to show her around. She was alone. A very beautiful girl. I took her round

the first cave and then offered to show her the other. We were above a cave looking down and I suddenly said 'Look there'. She looked down and I pushed her grabbing her bag and camera. She fell 30 feet. The cave was just full of rubbish. I pushed her to the side so she could not be seen from above and then climbed out. She had very little, just 500 Baht (£12) and a camera."

Parents' anguish, page 3

War of nerves over hostages

The war of nerves over Chechen rebels' seizure of hostages in Southern Russia entered its sixth day with the Russians putting on a fresh show of armed force. But after two deadlines for the release of the hostages had expired, the Chechens were given a further night to meet Moscow's conditions.

Hundreds of Russian troops armed with anti-tank rockets, and armoured personnel carriers, were moved closer to the village of Pervomaiskoye near the Dagestan border with Chechnya, where the rebels had holed up with more than 100 hostages. Page 10

Long delays in test dates drive learners to despair

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A STAMPEDE of tens of thousands of learner drivers desperate to take their tests before the summer has been triggered by the Government's announcement that they will have to sit a written examination from July 1.

Driving schools in major cities such as London, Birmingham and Newcastle have reported chaos as the Driving Standards Agency, which runs the tests, has struggled to cope with the massive surge in applications.

BSM, the biggest driving school in the world, is threatening to sue the agency because it is being so angered by the number of 25,500 tests being cancelled at short notice as a result of the shortage of examiners. Average waiting times for tests have risen from about six weeks to two or three months

in the worst affected areas. The longest reported delay is four months.

A spokeswoman for the agency, which lost its Charter Mark last year because of the lengthening waiting lists, said the backlog of unprocessed applications had grown by 30,000 to 245,000 over the year to last November.

The situation has been exacerbated by a reduction in full-time examiners, which has forced the agency to train 160 new part-time replacements, and a teeth problem with a high-tech telephone enquiry system.

Michael Moylan, the manager of the Baker Street branch of BSM, in central London, said: "We are almost at the stage where we can hardly conduct our business, we are being tortured here." Mr Moylan said learner

drivers were being reduced to tears by the delays, often taking it out on their instructors. The agency had also frequently lost application forms, cashed test fees when no dates had been set and had made it almost impossible for candidates to get through on the telephone, he said.

"Of all the times to change the phone numbers, why did they wait until the eve of the announcement of the written test to do it? We knew there would be an increase in business, why didn't they? Whoever is making the policy decisions must have his judgment questioned."

Nusrat Arif, 19, a student from Brent, in north London, said she had twice turned up the test centre in Mill Hill, only to be told that her appointment had been cancelled at the last minute.

Lottery superdraw to top up prizes

By ALEXANDRA FRISAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAMELOT is to introduce special weekly "superdraws" in the next six months, with prizes boosted by National Lottery reserve funds.

The scheme will mean that instead of the typical weekly prize pool of £12 million, Camelot will be able to guarantee a much bigger payout, expected to be in the region of £20 million to £25 million.

Provision for superdraws was written into Camelot's licence to give the company the flexibility to boost the jackpot and introduce more variety and excitement into the game. So far, the unusually high number of rollover weeks — when the jackpot is carried over for up to three draws — have meant that the company has not had to use the gimmick.

However, Camelot's director of communications said the number of rollovers was

expected to decline sharply in the next six to 12 months.

"There was no jackpot winner in last Saturday's draw meaning that we have yet another rollover this week, the third in four weeks," David Rigg said. "This is a statistical freak. In fact the experience of lotteries all over the world is that the number of rollovers decline the longer the game has been running."

When a lottery is new, players tend to choose "lucky numbers" based on birthdays and anniversaries. This means that a disproportionately high number of combinations chosen focus on low numbers. As a result, only a small proportion of the possible 14 million lottery combinations are chosen in any one week. This proportion is called *Continued on page 2, col 3*

Lottery numbers, page 20

Chaotic result for Rugby

A special meeting in Birmingham yesterday rejected the Rugby Football Union's response to the introduction of the new open game and the assembly broke up in chaos. The RFU's response to the declaration by the International Rugby Football Board was firmly defeated as was the RFU's nominee as chairman of the executive committee. Page 22

Pensions plea

Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, has called on all parties who were involved in the £4 billion personal pensions misselling scandal to work together to compensate up to one million victims such as nurses, police officers and local authority employees. Page 40

Internet Times

The Internet edition of *The Times* is now available on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

ELIZABETH AND HER CHILDREN
Part three of our serialisation of Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen

PLUS: See how your players are performing in our £50,000 Interactive Team Football

WEDNESDAY

ESSENTIAL FASHION
What the well dressed boss is wearing

PLUS: Win a Hewlett Packard computer notebook, in Interface

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK
Geoff Brown on Nicolas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas*

PLUS: Health, the Books pages, and John Bryant on sport

FRIDAY

POP
David Sinclair on Frank Black, cult hero of college rock

PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY

TRAVEL OFFER
Two Virgin Atlantic flights for the price of one

PLUS: The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A £22,995 HONDA SHUTTLE

Livingstone exposes Labour 'delusions'

'Union barons will ruin Blair's dream of power'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KEN LIVINGSTONE predicted a resurgence of trade union power under a future Labour government yesterday as he undermined efforts by Tony Blair to rebut Tory criticism of his big idea of a "stakeholder economy".

The left-wing Labour MP for Brent East contradicted his leader's insistence that the Conservatives were talking "rubbish" by claiming that his vision meant a fresh lease of life for union barons.

Mr Livingstone said on GMTV's *Sunday Show* that Mr Blair's strategy was to "reassure Conservative Britain" and not alienate a single floating voter. But the reality would be very different.

The Left was stronger than it had been for years with all the big unions agreed on the need to defend the welfare state and secure a minimum wage and a fairer tax system. Mr Livingstone said: "What happens in Parliament won't be as important as what's happening outside..."

If the trade unions are saying we aren't prepared to have cuts in the welfare state, there is absolutely nothing a

Labour government can do about it. The Tories cannot govern without the support of industry and commerce. We cannot govern without the support of the unions."

Mr Blair strongly rejected claims that his stakeholder plan meant a return to the beer and sandwiches at 10 Downing Street of the 1970s. He said that New Labour was not a "marketing gimmick" and that the radical changes he had made to his party's constitution and policies would not be reversed in power.

"It is changed in opposition and it will remain changed in government and nobody should be in any doubt about that at all," Mr Blair said on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost*. Arthur Scargill's decision to leave the Labour Party and set up the Socialist Labour Party was a graphic demonstration of the far-reaching nature of these changes.

Mr Blair also rejected Mr Livingstone's accusation that his idea of a stakeholder economy, unveiled in his speech in Singapore last week,



Livingstone: said unions will have final say on cuts

was a meaningless phrase. The Labour leader said it was a "unifying theme", encapsulating Labour's plans to give everyone a stake in the country's economic future. It meant, for instance, retraining the one million long-term jobless, making sure that the education system was not

devoted to an elite of 20-30 per cent of children, moving people off welfare into work, making available money to help people start their own businesses, and encouraging companies to treat their employees as "partners" not cogs in a wheel.

Nor was it about tying up companies in more red tape. "It is... the economic side of the One Nation society and it distinguishes us from the Conservatives that have done very well for the top few per cent in society."

"I am interested in encouraging a different corporate ethos that is about investing in people, treating them fairly, ensuring that they feel they have a stake in the enterprise because that is what makes a successful company."

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, accused Mr Blair of planning to go further than Michael Foot in his days as Employment Secretary in the last Labour government in giving power to the unions.

Mr Mawhinney said Labour was committed to giving strikers a legal right to have their jobs back, and that it would force employers to recognize unions if the proposal was supported by 51 per cent of the workforce. It would also impose new burdens on industry by signing the European social chapter and by introducing a minimum wage.

Mr Mawhinney said of Mr Blair: "Here was a man trying to create one impression in a nice interview with David Frost but saying by saying things that were flatly contradictory to what he was previously saying."

Peter Riddell, page 16
Letters, page 17

Left-wing MPs scorn Scargill's 'Gang of One'

By NICHOLAS WOOD

ARTHUR SCARGILL accused Tony Blair of embracing the capitalist "devil" yesterday as he announced that he would be resigning from the Labour Party in a few days to carry on the class war under the banner of his breakaway party.

Mr Scargill, the President of the National Union of Mineworkers, was speaking after a meeting on Saturday at a central London hotel had decided to set up the Socialist Labour Party from May 1. Its creed will be nationalisation, unilateral nuclear disarmament, full employment and restoration of trade union rights. Campaigning against the Newbury bypass and against the veal trade were added to the shopping list by Mr Scargill yesterday.

About 40 people attended the gathering, an event that Mr Scargill yesterday likened to the birth of the Labour Party under Keir Hardie.

The NUM chief's former comrades were unimpressed, with Ken Livingstone, the left-wing Labour MP for Brent South, dismissing the founding fathers of the Socialist

Labour Party as including a "small group of nutters".

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said: "The SDP never succeeded. The gang of one won't even get off the ground."

Mr Livingstone also pointed out that, other than Mr Scargill, no big names were associated with the new party.

Mr Scargill, who hopes to recruit 5,000 members in 18 months, admitted yesterday that he did not expect any Labour MPs to defect.

The new party may stand in next month's by-election in the Labour-held seat of Hemsworth in Yorkshire.

Mr Scargill said of Mr Blair and his supporters: "What they've done collectively — to destroy socialism from the agenda of Labour Party politics — [is] something that Lady Thatcher found impossible to do when she tried to wipe socialism off the agenda of British politics."

Renewed splits emerged as the party was being formed. Scottish left-wingers failed to reach an agreement which could have resulted in up to 2,000 Scots joining Mr



Scargill: will set up new party on May 1

Scargill's party. Three members of the Militant group appeared to walk out before the end of the meeting. Tommy Sheridan a Scottish Militant councillor, would not comment before leaving.

It is thought that yet another new left-wing party will be launched in Glasgow next month.

Mr Scargill made clear that Socialist Labour members would not be able to join or support other political groups.

Peter Riddell, page 16
Letters, page 17

Lottery boost

Continued from page 1
the "cover" was and was running at 40-60 per cent during the National Lottery's early days.

As players experiment with different combinations — and as more people play — the "cover" increases. It is now running at between 75 and 90 per cent and the introduction in March of Camelot's Lucky Dip system, by which a computer will randomly select people's lottery numbers, is expected to take the cover close to 100 per cent.

Mr Rigg said that he therefore expected roll-overs to decline and that Camelot was likely to seek permission from the Lottery regulator, Ofot, to hold a Superdraw.

Money for that will come from Camelot's reserve prize fund which now stands at around £100 million. The fund has been building up since the Lottery was launched as Camelot has deliberately held back a small percentage of prize

money each week. It is supposed to put 50.6p of every £1 from ticket sales into the weekly prize pool, but at the moment the level is understood to be running at 48.6p.

Although Camelot has to hand over the surplus money to the "good causes" fund, or put it into occasional Superdraw prize pools, it is allowed to keep the interest.

A number of MPs have expressed surprise at this arrangement, and it is likely to be examined by the Commons National Heritage Select Committee when it holds an inquiry into the Lottery.

Gerald Kaufman, the committee's Labour chairman, said yesterday that the scope of the investigation had not been decided, but it is expected to cover the jackpot, the way the cash is shared out among the good causes, and Camelot's profits.

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Lottery numbers, page 20

Bypass protesters eligible for Giros

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

WHITEHALL officials have told ministers that they cannot stop benefit payments to protesters living in tree houses and make-shift shelters in the Newbury bypass battle.

A team from the Benefits Agency has visited the sites with employment officials and declared that the protesters meet the conditions of eligibility for benefits.

The decision has caused frustration at the Department of Transport, which faces increased costs in building the bypass because of delays caused by the protests.

At the weekend an unnamed Transport Department official called for benefits to be withdrawn, saying that the protesters were clearly not available for work. Although

the Highways Agency, which is building the bypass, has hired a detective agency to identify protesters, no evidence has been produced of benefit fraud. The Post Office has recognised the make-shift camps as permanent addresses for the delivery of mail.

Protesters yesterday planned more than 100 trees on a site cleared by contractors last week. A number of trees were felled on the Tot Hill site at the southern section of the proposed road on Wednesday and that area was replanted.

Police and the Highways Agency both said they were powerless to stop the planting. There was no sign of the contractors at the site and security guards had been given the weekend off.

Mawhinney denies plot to oust Major

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, sought yesterday to end speculation about a challenge to John Major's leadership. "It's not in the real world," Dr Mawhinney said on London Weekend Television's *CrossTalk*. "There isn't going to be a [leadership] election in November."

His assertion came after senior Tories confirmed that the executive of the 1922 Committee of the party's backbenchers was resisting pressure from the Prime Minister to change the leadership election rules to safeguard him against another challenge before the general election.

MPs said that the 18-strong executive was unlikely to resolve the issue in this Parliament. Leading figures said that the executive had been urged by backbenchers to leave intact the possibility that, under current rules, 33 MPs could trigger a contest in November. However, few MPs believe that the parliamentary party would risk a contest within six months of the deadline for a general election.

Vaccine supply runs out

Extra supplies of the meningitis vaccine will arrive in Retford, Nottinghamshire, later this week after children swamped an inoculation centre seeking protection from the virus that killed a teenager last Friday. All 7,000 doses allocated by the department of health were used after the death of Christopher Vernon, 17. Doctors have advised teenagers to avoid kissing, which is one way the rare, type C strain of the disease can be passed on.

Hostage experts fly out

Three officers from Scotland Yard's International and Organised Crime Branch, all experts in hostage negotiation, have gone to Indonesia to help to secure the release of four Britons captured by anti-government rebels, the Foreign Office said yesterday. The four were seized with three other Europeans and 17 Indonesians by a rebel group seeking independence for Indonesia's Irian Jaya province. Nine hostages, all locals, have since been released.

Child feared abducted

A five-year-old girl is thought to have been abducted from her bedroom during the night. Rosemary McCann was last seen at 12.30am yesterday. When her mother, Josephine, 26, checked again at 2am she was gone. A motorist spotted a man and girl walking near the house in Oldham, Greater Manchester, and gave them a lift. Police arrested a boyfriend of Mrs McCann last night but said the child's whereabouts were still not known.

Woman strangled

Police were checking possible links with unsolved killings yesterday after a young woman was found strangled and dumped in a lay-by at Belmont, on the moors above Darwen, Lancashire. She was wearing only her underwear. Forces in the North of England and the Midlands are hunting the killers of at least a dozen young women, most of them were strangled and dumped in spots close to the motorway network.

BA loses route fight

Britishairways airline, which has one aircraft, has won a dispute with British Airways. The Civil Aviation Authority has ruled that BA must limit flights to Beirut from Heathrow to two a week, while British Mediterranean can have up to one a day if Lebanese authorities agree. British Mediterranean's managing director, Des Hetherington, is a former BA executive. A non-executive director, David Burnside, was BA's public affairs director.

Ken Dodd to play Yorick

Ken Dodd, the veteran comedian, said he was "ticked pink" yesterday after winning the role of Yorick in Kenneth Branagh's production of *Hamlet*. Yorick, who usually appears as just a skull, has been recreated for the film by Branagh, who will play the lead role. Dodd will play alongside Robin Williams, Gerard Depardieu, Charlton Heston, Jack Palance and Julie Christie when filming begins later this month.

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'Lost' sonnet starts a war of words

By QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND RUSSELL JENKINS

AN American professor, who has used computer technology to attribute an early 17th century elegy to William Shakespeare, was subjected to a cold blast of academic scepticism yesterday.

Shakespeare scholars, squaring up for a bruising literary battle, remain to be convinced that the 578-line poem mourning the death of a young man who mixed with Shakespeare's entourage in Oxford was written by the bard. The manuscript, mildly homosexual in tone and signed WS, was uncovered by Professor Donald Foster, an English don at Vassar College in New York State, in a

catalogue of the Jacobean stationer Thomas Thorpe, who published Shakespeare's sonnets. It turned up in a privately published edition in Baltimore College library.

Prof Foster has subjected the work to computer analysis and now believes he has the kind of compelling evidence that will prove his case.

Scholars closer to Shakespeare's home are less impressed. They claim that the rhyming couplets are simply not good enough to come from the Bard's pen. Professor Stanley Wells, director of the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-on-Avon, said: "The poem is rather bland. I would

take a lot of convincing."

The computer programme compared the playwright's vocabulary to the words of *A Funeral Elegy*, a little-noticed, 21-page poem kept at Oxford's Bodleian Library.

Mr Foster, who presented his thesis at a meeting of scholars in Chicago, first read the elegy 13 years ago and was struck by its Shakespearean character. Wary of the scepticism that greets any Shakespearean "discovery", not least if it comes from America, he developed a computer database of words that appear fewer than 13 times in the Shakespearean canon. The computer was also pro-

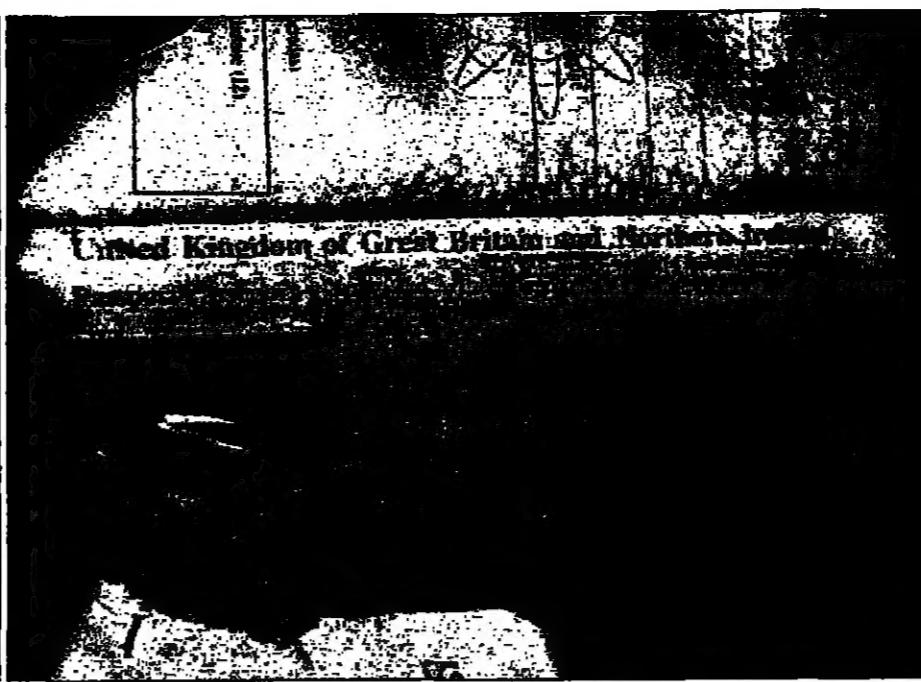
grammed to note the vocabulary of late Shakespearean plays such as *The Winter's Tale*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Henry VIII*, and of other writers' work of the period. Several rare Shakespearean words such as "unprevailing", "officelss" and "spleenful" matched the language of the 1612 elegy.

Mr Foster said: "The computer provides an accurate and objective measure, and the evidence is innumerable that Shakespeare did write the poem."

Professor Peter Levi, of Oxford University, said: "Such analysis is almost always complete rubbish".

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One of the last pictures of Johanne, taken on an elephant trek in northern Thailand. The burnt remains of her passport, found near her body and, right, Stuart Masheder, who flew to Thailand to join the search for his daughter

Couple's hunt for devoted daughter ends in heartache

By RICHARD DUKE

AN AGONISING two-week search by the parents of Johanne Masheder for their lost daughter ended yesterday with the discovery of her body near a Buddhist temple in Thailand. Stuart and Jackie Masheder had kept up their hopes that Johanne had simply decided to extend her three-month round the world travel plans that had already taken her to Fiji, New Zealand and Canada.

Realistically, they knew that something untoward must have happened to a devoted daughter who was looking forward to a legal career and would not intentionally miss the chance to spend Christmas at home with her family in

Cheshire. Mr Masheder, the business manager of a chemical company, and his wife became alarmed after last hearing from their daughter on December 7 in a call from Chiang Mai in northern Thailand where she was elephant trekking. Rather than wait for news, they flew to Thailand to help the search.

Mrs Masheder said soon after arriving: "I'm happier here. At least I feel I can do something." The couple believed their daughter to be heading for the island of Ko Samui, a known haunt of backpackers. Mr Masheder, 49, was an incongruous figure on the island beaches, where, armed with a photograph of his eldest daughter he tackled people for information. He

hired private investigators and placed ads in newspapers.

However Miss Masheder at first appeared to have changed her plans by buying a travel ticket for the island of Ko Samet, much closer to Bangkok. A sighting of her on the island on December 17 now seems to be mistaken. It now appears that she made straight for Kanchanaburi from Bangkok where she was seen on December 9th.

She had left her rucksack in the storage room of a travel agency in Bangkok planning to collect it for her scheduled flight home on December 21. Photographs of Miss Masheder's trip to northern Thailand have been developed from two rolls of film in the

bag. There were fleeting hopes they could help police trace her whereabouts but they have now become Mr and Mrs Masheder's final pictures of their daughter.

After Christmas with her family Miss Masheder, a law graduate from York university, had planned to start work with the London firm of Cameron Mackay Hewitt on December 28. The likelihood is that some two weeks before then, the independent young woman was killed by the Buddhist monk who has confessed to her murder.

Miss Masheder was one of hundreds of thousands of young Britons who seek adventure in exotic corners of the globe. One in seven students takes time off or a "gap year"

to travel to exotic places either before or after their University course and Thailand is generally considered to be one of the safer destinations for backpackers. David Cresswell, editor of *Overseas Jobs Express*, said yesterday: "I don't believe that it is more dangerous to go abroad nowadays, but there are more young people travelling every year, and they are

searching out more remote destinations. These youngsters want to go somewhere where no-one else goes, so they are among the first Westerners into former war zones or newly-opened tribal areas. They are idealistic and full of good feelings towards their fellow man. They don't invest enough thought and preparation in their own safety."

It is not uncommon on Thailand for convicted criminals to become monks because it is often the only way they can stay alive. In a land where Buddhist monks are revered, they live off the charity of others. Many monks can be seen with full body tattoos — a sign of their previous lives in Thai Mafia gangs. Drug addicts also join the monkhood

in an effort to "dry out". One temple in northern Thailand even specialises in treating heroin addicts.

Police Colonel Vorathip Mathwai, Head of the Investigation Division of the Thai Immigration Police said: "We are pleased to have caught Jo's killer so quickly, but I cannot say I am happy with the result. We had hoped to find the girl alive. This does not look good for Thailand and our monkhood."

Stephen Geers of Trailfinders, the London-based travel agency, said: "We will still recommend Thailand to people. After all, will the French be telling people not to come to Britain because of what happened to Celine Figard?"

Champion is missing, presumed dognapped

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH AND RUSSELL JENKINS

A CHAMPION pedigree dog worth £50,000 has vanished shortly before it was due to compete for a top prize at Crufts.

Isaac, a prize-winning rare German wire-haired pointer, disappeared along with Spice, a less valuable 14-month-old bitch, at the end of their regular daily walk.

They are feared to have been taken by thieves who knew the dogs were rare, or by jealous rivals who wanted to knock out a tough competitor at the start of a new showing season.

Their disappearance nearly two weeks ago has mystified police, shocked other breeders around the country and left the owner distraught.

Maxine O'Connor, of Mossbank, St Helen's, on Merseyside, has offered a £500 reward to be reunited with the two dogs she last saw chasing along a dirt track on desolate farm land on Tuesday, January 2, as she walked back to her parked car.

Mrs O'Connor, 36, a professional breeder, had briefly turned away to put two other



Maxine yesterday with two of Isaac's puppies

pointers in her car at Carr Mill dam, Mossbank. She whistled but Isaac and Spice did not answer the call.

At the same time she saw a blue transit van disappearing at speed up the track, and is now convinced that the dogs had been bundled into the back. Isaac, now 20 months old, gained his champion title

last November at the Gundog Breeds of Scotland show. Puppies sired by Isaac would be highly sought after in the small, enclosed world of pointer dog breeding. German wire-haired pointers are unusual breeds in this country with only 60 in the show ring.

The German pointer is highly valued as a gun dog. Isaac — kennel name Femke's Footsteps Isaac at Kimmax — has a special distinction. When he arrived from Holland at a price of £5,000, he was the first dog to enter Britain last year under the new Ministry of Agriculture regulations allowing free movement for dogs used for breeding within the EU. They are exempt from the six-month quarantine.

Mrs O'Connor said: "I did not expect my dogs to be whisked from under my nose. It would have been understandable if the thieves had broken into my car or house, but this is terrible."

She has seven others of the same breed, and takes them to the same spot every day at the same time. "One minute the dogs were there, and the next they were gone. I saw a blue van drive off. I whistled to the dogs, but there were no sign of them. These dogs do not just disappear like this."

Mrs O'Connor and her husband, Phil, combed the area and discovered fresh paw marks at the end of a lane next to large tyre marks. "It was frosty weather and then it began to thaw, so I was able to recognise the dog paws — one female, one male," she said.

"I am one hundred per cent convinced that they were in that van. They could not just disappear into thin air. Why they were in that van, God only knows. Shergar disappeared forever, didn't he?"

Detective Inspector Jon Dawson of St Helen's police, said: "These dogs are pedigree, but without their official pedigree papers they are not worth anything."



Isaac: the champion dog and a less valuable bitch disappeared during a daily walk in the country

Warning over Lego leaves rural vicar a shade angry

By A STAFF REPORTER

A VICAR has attacked a social services inspector's demand that he provide black dolls and Lego figures at a children's club he runs.

The Rev Michael Foster, vicar of Holy Jesus Church, Lydbrook, Gloucestershire, was amazed when the inspector insisted toys at the after-school club should "reflect the black population".

"This is dabbling with social engineering," Mr Foster said. "Our Lego characters are yellow so, if anything, they reflect the Sino-Japanese community. There was no insistence that we buy white Lego characters — only black ones. How nitpicking are we



The Lego figures

going to get?" In a letter after the six-monthly inspection, the vicar was told his toys "did reflect the white population, but did in no way reflect the black population".

The club has bought a black doll as a result, Mr Foster said. It already had many children's books reflecting a multi-cultural society. "Our equal opportunities policy is to reflect multi-cultural society. It's especially important in rural areas where children might not have much multi-cultural experience."

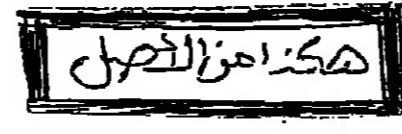
Foster, 43, said he was aware of the need to promote racial equality among children after running a London community centre before moving to rural Gloucestershire. But he felt the inspector's demand went too far.

Douglas French, Tory MP for Gloucester, said: "It is very harmful to take political correctness to such a daft length. They should use a little bit more common sense."

A spokesman for Gloucestershire County Council defended the inspector, saying: "Our equal opportunities policy is to reflect multi-cultural society. It's especially important in rural areas where children might not have much multi-cultural experience."

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Unprecedented redundancy deal for 3,000 will cut jail staff by 7 per cent as number of inmates soars

Prison officers fear job losses will lead to riots



Tilt: admitted that cuts would be difficult

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON staff said yesterday that there could be jail disturbances as a result of the loss of almost 3,000 jobs to help meet Treasury-imposed spending cuts.

Older governors and prison officers will be offered a redundancy package involving enhanced pension rights and lump sums to leave the service. The Prison Service is seeking to cut costs by 13.3 per cent over the next three years.

The redundancy deal, the first offered by the Prison Service, is one of a series of measures designed to cut £65 million from the £1.35 billion annual cost of running the 133 jails in England and Wales. It is

expected to reduce the number of employees, currently 37,900, by 2,300 by the end of 1998.

A freeze on recruitment has been imposed which will reduce staff numbers by a further 1,000; capital spending has been cut, and prisoners will spend more time locked in their cells at night.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, has been warned that there could be a shortage of jail accommodation between February and May this year. She has been told that to overcome the difficulties the service might have to put 1,100 inmates two to a cell.

Richard Tilt, acting director-general of the Prison Service, confirmed yesterday that there would be voluntary redundancies

The Royal College of Midwives is to urge Britain's prisons to scrap the "inhuman" practice of shackling pregnant prisoners while in hospitals. Caroline Flint, college president, will meet Richard Tilt, the director-general of the Prison Service, today in an effort to end what she calls a barbaric procedure. It emerged earlier this month that a pregnant inmate at Holloway Prison, North London, was handcuffed to prevent an escape during her 12-hour labour in the nearby Whittington Hospital.

but would not put a figure on how many.

Officials have concluded that as staff pay makes up the biggest part of the budget, only job losses over three years will enable them to meet the Treasury-imposed cutback.

Mr Tilt admitted that meeting the budget reduction would be "dif-

ficult". He added: "The first priority in all of this is to maintain proper control and good order in prisons. If we don't, we put the safety of staff and prisoners at risk."

He said cuts in education, prison farms and workshops would be a last resort. "We aim to protect the core part of the regimes".

The redundancies represent

about 7 per cent of the Prison Service's total staffing levels. Prison governors and officers expressed alarm at the cuts and gave warning of a return to inmates being locked up for long periods. David Evans, of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "This is a high-risk strategy likely to lead to prison disturbances and disruption."

Prison governors will today be sent their budget allocation for 1996. It will be left to them how they implement the cutbacks. Prison Service sources said they hoped there would be no compulsory redundancies. Officers and those in governor grades aged over 55 with at least 20 years' experience will be the first group to be offered voluntary redundancy, followed by those over 50.

The drive to cut staffing levels through voluntary redundancy comes as the service is predicting the prison population will reach an all-time high of 53,700 by March.

Countdown of neighbour who asked for a lift from Branson

By OLIVER AUGUST AND ANDREW PIERCE

RORY McCarthy was enjoying a weekend with his family yesterday as he prepared for three weeks with the neighbour he asked for a lift. The neighbour was Richard Branson.

McCarthy was one of more than 1,000 applicants who asked to be the third crewman on the *Virgin Global Challenger*, which lifts off this week to try to orbit the globe. Like Branson, he is a successful businessman, a lover of hot air, and lives in Holland Park, west London.

He has already spent one night in the balloon capsule. To see exactly how crowded it might feel, he took his wife Sally and sleeping bags. They were so comfortable, they overslept and were awoken the next morning by the welders finishing off the capsule.

"Psychology will be the most trying part of the journey," he said. "Three people will be stuck in a capsule ten feet wide for 21 days."

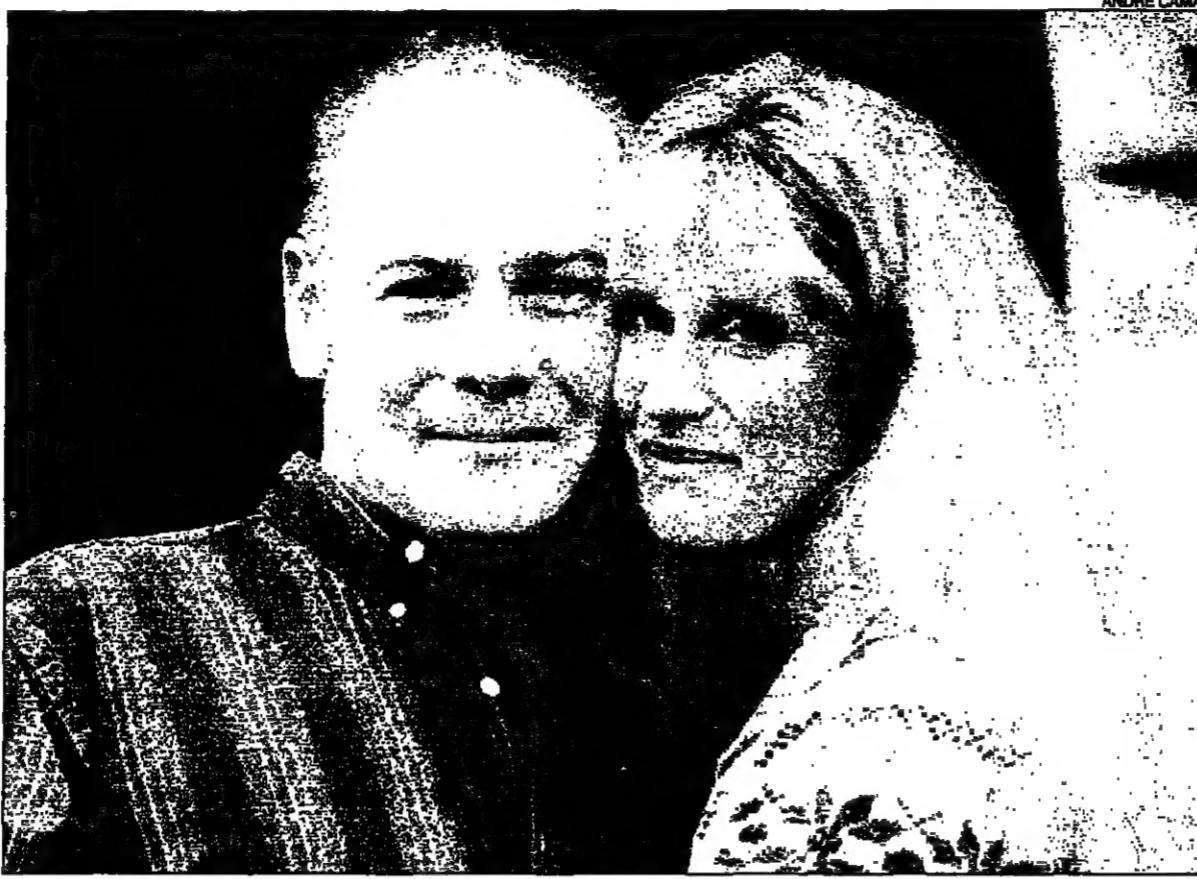
McCarthy, 35, has had several careers. He con-

quered the City, but grew bored with all that ten years ago. He became a successful prawn farmer, then a millionaire businessman. For real excitement he threw himself off a balloon and didn't release his parachute for two minutes. He became a professional hang-glider, and broke the world sky-diving altitude record.

But he says of Branson: "I am not as whacky as he is. I am really much more conservative."

McCarthy owns several leisure companies. His Siam Trading Corporation began in 1990 as one of the world's largest king-prawn farmers. Today its assets are worth £90 million and include numerous restaurants. "Basically what we do involves fun," he said. The historic flight couldn't have come at a worse time for McCarthy's business. He is in the middle of restructuring and renaming his company.

On board, he will be responsible for safety, being the only one who has jumped from a balloon at 35,000ft.



Rory McCarthy and his wife Sally: they spent a night together inside the balloon capsule and overslept

"My role is simple. If there is an emergency I take Richard with me. Like the man who takes the bullet for the President," he said.

While Per Lindstrand is navigating and Mr Branson is monitoring the eight video cameras on board for an ITV documentary, Mr McCarthy will also be looking after their nutritional needs. Because the air is so dry at high altitude they will have to drink ten pints of water a day.

But to relieve stress they will also get a bottle of Virgin Vodka each.

Sally, 39, and their children Bo, 2, Cameron, 6, and Alexander, 10, will be there when he comes down again. He said: "Doing this sort of thing was much easier when I didn't have a family. That's what makes this project different. But I am coming back from this. I want to have a good time."

The nutritionist Nigel

Gifford, who advised Chris Bonington on his ascent of K2, flew into Marrakesh last night to oversee the dietary arrangements for the Virgin Challenger crew, who will be using a microwave.

A team of 150 electricians, engineers, seamstresses and technicians are working in eight-hour shifts round the clock, for Thursday's launch. The work is being carried out in two adjacent hangars at the military base at Marrakech Airport in Morocco. Armed soldiers maintain a discreet but constant presence. More than 30 tonnes of equipment was flown in by Airbus on Saturday and was finally unloaded yesterday lunchtime. All the equipment had to arrive before the onset of Ramadan at the weekend. Any materials which came in after the start of the four-week holy period were unlikely to move much beyond the ports.

Hormone may stop brain damage caused by stress

By LEYLA LINTON

A NATURAL hormone could help prevent the brain damage or malfunction believed to be caused by stress, according to a Cambridge scientist.

Dehydroepiandrosterone, or DHEA, which has been dubbed a youth elixir in the United States, appears to combat the harmful effects of cortisol, a hormone triggered by stress, which can cause brain damage, according to Dr Joe Herbert of the Department of Anatomy and the Centre for Brain Repair at Cambridge University.

"There is lots of experimental evidence to show that cortisol can cause brain damage. There is a very real concern now that in some kinds of people this is entirely possible, but DHEA might prevent you from getting this brain damage," he said.

Experiments on animals have shown that injections of cortisol cause loss of brain cells in the part of the brain which is mainly concerned with memory and learning. Similar damage has been seen



Herbert: made study of depression in children

ness, according to Dr Herbert. A three-year research project by Dr Herbert and Ian Goodyer, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Cambridge, concludes that high levels of cortisol and low levels of DHEA are associated with major depression. Dr Herbert believes it is a form of brain malfunction.

The results of the study of hormonal changes in more than 90 depressed children are published this month in *Psychological Medicine*. Dr Herbert said that the role of cortisol in depression had been known, but the role of DHEA had not.

The problem has always been that hormonal changes in depression have only been detected in half the patients. We think that is because we have only been looking at one hormone," Dr Herbert and Professor Goodyer are now studying 140 normal children at risk of getting depression and measuring changes in hormone levels to see if they can tell who will develop it.

Letters, page 17

Underweight smoker has slim chance of survival

By LEYLA LINTON

THE highly conscientious, grossly overweight, heavy-smoking 50-year-old man seemed to face all the hazards of a hard-working, hard-living life. The only question was whether his collapse would follow a stroke, a coronary thrombosis or lung cancer.

The answer to the question came during the cold pre-Christmas weather, when he developed a sudden crushing chest pain as he went out into the night and was exposed to a blast of North Sea wind. The pain passed within half an hour but a few days later he had a serious heart attack.

It is generally accepted that excess weight increases the chance of a stroke, a heart attack, diabetes and several forms of cancer, including cancer of the breast, prostate and large bowel. But hitherto its influence on the incidence of cancer of the lung has not been studied.

Most doctors have patients who refuse to stop smoking because they believe that their otherwise healthy lifestyle, which keeps them lean,

muscular and athletically fit, will protect them from cancer of the lung. They are wrong. Not being obese will halve their chance of a stroke, and reduce the likelihood of a coronary thrombosis, but the effect of weight on the chances of developing cancer of the lung is surprising.

A recent study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* shows that remaining thin does not provide any protection against lung cancer. No cigarette smoker is immune from the grossly inflated danger of cancer of the lung — over 90 per cent of these cancers occur in cigarette smokers — but the very thin smoker is almost four times more likely to develop the disease than the fat

smoker. The thinner a person is the more likely he or she is to succumb.

It is suggested that thin people may have lower body levels of the antioxidant vitamins E, C and beta-carotene, which are fat soluble. The antioxidant vitamins are thought to be cancer protective as well as beneficial to the arteries.

This latest research does not give smokers an excuse to remain overweight, given the other risks attached. The research does, however, add to the growing evidence of the importance of the antioxidant vitamins, whether taken in pill form or with the diet as fresh green vegetables, citrus fruits, tomatoes, carrots, peppers or red wine.

Detective Chief Inspector Roger Couzens told the press conference: "This tragic death highlights the dangers that young people put themselves in when they take drugs. I ask all young people out there in the future, when they are offered drugs, to take that into consideration."

Mr Couzens confirmed that Andreas had a weak heart and that he had no evidence that the teenager had taken drugs in the past. He said that although the exact cause of death would not be known until later this week, all the indications were that the Ecstasy tablet had had an effect on Andreas's heart. It is not believed that Andreas died from drinking too much water.

Police have raided the club in the past and on Saturday night, after they were called to Andreas's death, they arrested one person for possession of drugs with intent to supply. Police issued a photograph of the person they believed had supplied the drug to Andreas. He was in his mid-20s, 5ft 8in tall, with centre-parted dark hair and brown eyes.

Mr Couzens said police had not applied to close the premises but put forward "certain objections" to local magistrates.



Tasos and Josephine Bouzis at yesterday's press conference. "Andreas was our life," his mother said

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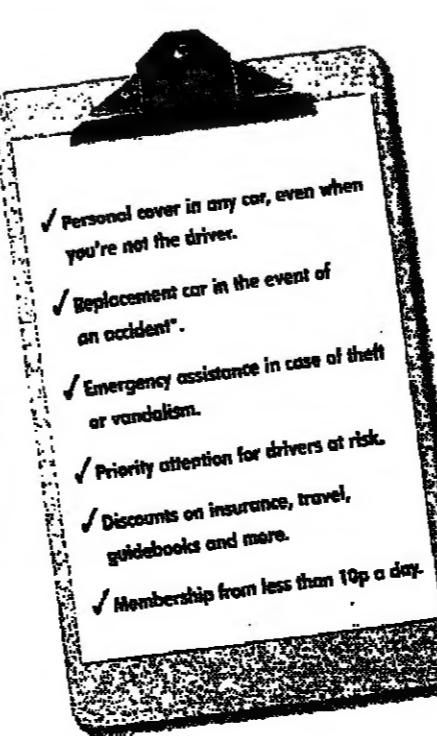
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British
cemetery
space
is becoming
so acute that
the Government
is being asked
to change the law
to allow graves
to be reused. At the same time
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Pressure on cemetery space
is particularly acute in urban areas. Two London boroughs — Hackney and Tower Hamlets — already have no burial space. A further six boroughs will have no space by the end of the century and face the unpopular choice of turning parkland into cemeteries.

A survey of 700 cemeteries in the 200 largest local authorities has found that on average they are three-quarters full, while 70 have no space left at all. Ian Hussein, secretary of the Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration, said it was not politically popular to spend money on cemeteries instead of on something like a new park. "A long-term solution has got to be found or the day will come when we have nowhere to bury the dead," he said.

About 70 per cent of all bodies are cremated, but Dr Julie Rugg of the University of York's Cemetery Research Group believes that more families would choose burial if it were possible to find a plot. "Because of pressure on space, authorities with plots to spare can charge anything up to £1,000 and many people can't afford that," she said.

The price of cremation, too, is rising steeply because of the high cost of converting furnaces to meet new environmental standards. Many councils may now privatise their crematoriums. The Government has just changed the rules to allow them to keep 90 per cent of the proceeds of any sales made up to June 1997.

Britain runs out of space for dead

By IAN MURRAY

BRITAIN is facing a crisis in finding ways to dispose sensitively of the 650,000 bodies of those who die each year.

Oversubscription in cemeteries is becoming so acute that the Government is being asked to change the law to allow graves to be reused. At the same time the cost of upgrading crematoriums to meet the Environmental Protection Act is proving too high for hard-up local authorities.

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Volunteers carry out a search of common land at Yate, near Bristol. Louise's father, Robert Smith, below, was overwhelmed by the response from members of the public



Ten thousand volunteers fail to find missing girl

By RICHARD DUKE

THEY came in droves and from all walks of life. Ten thousand volunteers turned up yesterday for Britain's biggest mass search in the hope of finding clues to the disappearance of the missing teenager Louise Smith.

Police had expected only 2,000 people would offer to help. Robert Smith traced his daughter, who was last seen on Christmas Day after leaving a night club. But it seemed as if the entire population of Yate, near Bristol, was on the move. Mr Smith, 49, of Chipping Sodbury, said: "I am overwhelmed. I never expect-

ed this many." A series of police searches using helicopters, tracker dogs and divers have so far failed to find any trace of Louise. The volunteers joined Louise's relatives, friends, 150 police officers and tracker dogs to carry out "line searches" of fields and common land for anything that could help to determine what happened to Louise. IS: a clerical assistant.

Chief Inspector Pie Biesheuvel, of Avon and Somerset police, said: "The response has been tremendous." Among the searchers was the Northavon MP Sir John Cope, who said: "This case

has touched the public's

imagination because we can all relate to the family."

Louise's friend, Lisa Parry, who also joined the search, said: "We cannot give up hope of finding her alive."

Another searcher was Paul Hancock, a bank clerk who drove 40 miles from his home in Swindon. "I came to help because I felt so sorry for Louise's family," he said. "It is hard to imagine the pain they must be going through."

Detective Superintendent John Newman, who is heading the hunt, said six hours of searching had turned up small items of clothing but there was nothing to link them to Louise.



Louise disappeared

Fourth Spanish crop failure drives up price of olive oil

By ROBIN YOUNG

SUPERMARKETS and delicatessens are preparing for extra pressures in meeting the fashionable demand for olive oil after Spain's fourth successive crop failure.

The price of a half-litre bottle of extra virgin oil, currently about £3, could soon rise to £5. Yet even that cannot be expected to panic the serious devotees who already pay up to £26 a litre for estate-bottled and

vintage oils. Sainsbury's lists some 15 premium olive oils from estates in Italy and France in its Special Selection range, at up to £11.99 for a half-litre. Oils flavoured with lemon or orange are £7.50 for 250ml.

Many wine merchants now feature specially chosen olive oils in their lists, and one, Enotria Winecellars, organises a tasting of new vintage oils with as much enthusiasm as if they were vintage wines. This year, Enotria's "fruity" oil from the Isola e

Olena estate in Chianti will be £13.49 a half-litre, compared with £8.79 last year. "We have had to cut our margin to keep some of the prices at all reasonable," said Enotria's Jonathan Henfrey.

Charles Carey, who runs The Oil Merchant, importing single-estate Italian oils, said: "I sell twelve times as much as at the end of the 1980s. Now I am advising people to buy ahead of their needs."

Shop prices for branded and

supermarket oils rose by nearly 40 per cent during 1995, but further increases are inevitable because in the same time prices in the international wholesale markets have doubled, and are still rising. The current Spanish crop, still being crushed, is expected to yield some 250,000 tonnes, compared to the million tonnes that might be achieved in a good year. Italy, which produces 400,000 tonnes but sells 700,000, relies on imports from Spain to make

up its shortfall. This year, of the major producers only Greece has any surplus and buyers have scoured Tunisia and Turkey and as far afield as Syria and Jordan.

More than a fifth of British households are now regular users of olive oil, spending about £37.5 million and consuming 15,000 tonnes, in a national enthusiasm for Mediterranean cuisine and healthy eating.

Leading article, page 17

Cathedral sees car as mixed blessing

By LEYLA LINTON

A SERVICE at Coventry Cathedral to celebrate the centenary of the invention of the car will also ask the forgiveness of God for its harmful effects.

The service, instigated by Coventry City Council and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, has angered environmentalists, who believe it will glorify the car.

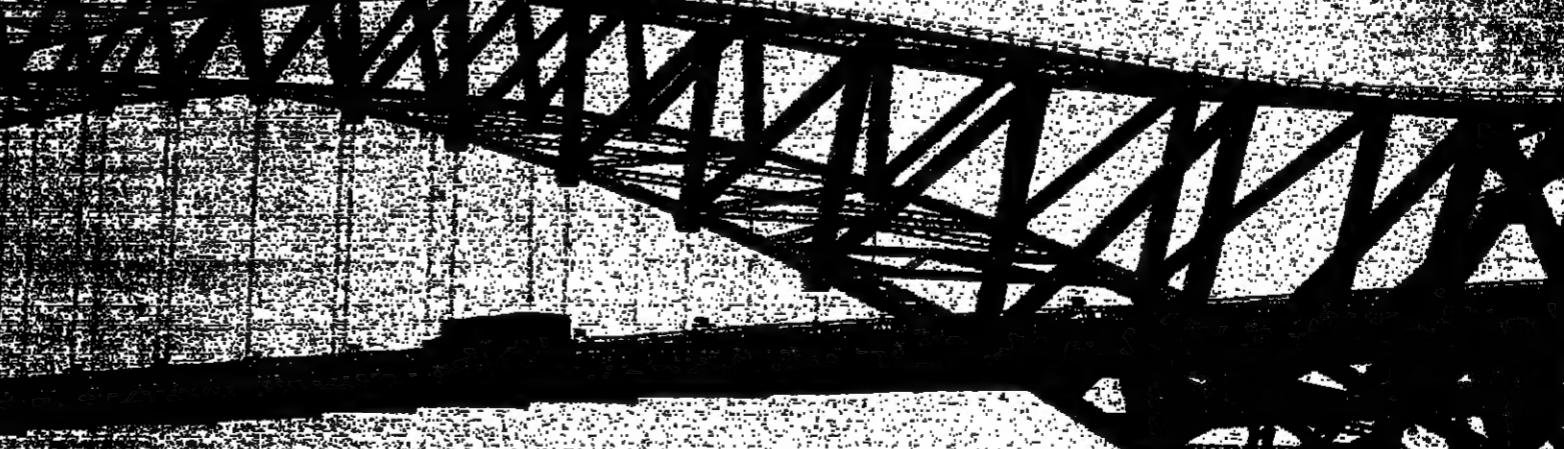
The Rev Lawrence Mortimer, spokesman for the cathedral, said the service would make clear that the car had been a mixed blessing. A Bidding Prayer will thank God for the benefits that the motor vehicle had brought. But it adds: "We must also acknowledge its harmful effects among them environmental pollution from exhaust fumes, the relentless encroachment of new roads into our countryside, and the appalling toll of death and injury due to accidents. For this we ask forgiveness of God."

Mr Mortimer said: "Every Christian worship has an act of penitence built into it and this is no exception ... The cathedral is in the middle of a motor city and it knows what it is about. A cathedral is nothing if it does not engage with the real world." The cathedral has a sculpture of the head of Christ on show made from the wreck of a car involved in a fatal accident.

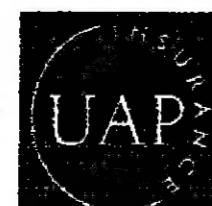
At the service on Wednesday two cars, one vintage, one electric, will be driven down the cathedral aisle.

Friends of the Earth and members of charity Roadpeace, which campaigns on behalf of victims of car accidents, are planning to protest outside the cathedral and at an evening banquet celebrating the centenary.

Gerald Kells, of the West Midlands Friends of the Earth, said: "The cathedral is being turned into a car showroom. I think it is naive of the Provost and the Bishop to think that the motor trade is not doing this for PR purposes."



The people who insure the truck also insure the bridge



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Inventors take a shot at ending golf hacker's misery

By JOHN YOUNG

TWO further attempts to alleviate the misery of the golfer whose ball refuses to fly straight and true are about to appear in club professionals' shops.

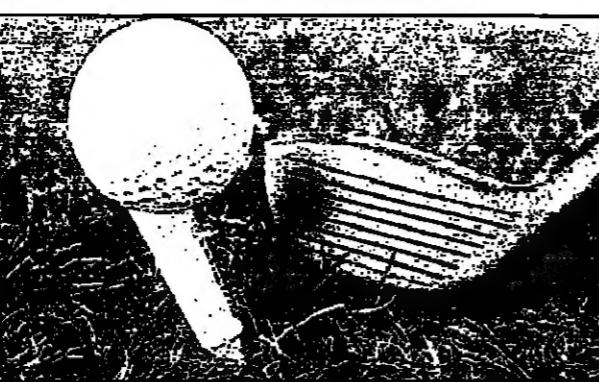
The two new designs of golf tee are so different that logic suggests that both inventors cannot be right. Precedent also suggests that, like almost every other device intended to make the game easier, the high-tech tees will fall foul of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the guardian of the rules. It has the power of veto and takes a properly Calvinistic view that suffering is good for the soul.

In one new design the back of the plastic tee cup that holds the ball is cut away. In the other the tee is reinforced by a raised bracket against

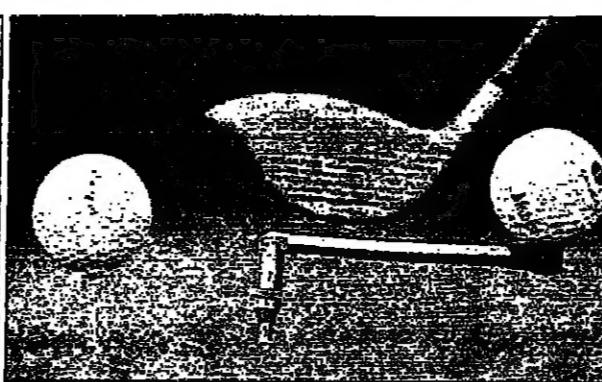
which the ball sits, preventing the club from making direct contact with the missile.

The latter, known as the Arnold Palmer Anti-Slice Tee, is based on the premise that wayward hooks and slices are the result of the club head striking the ball at the wrong angle. But if the club strikes only the bracket on the top of the tee and not the ball, the latter will soar away in a straight line, however clumsy the impact. In theory, at least.

Voco UK, of Ormskirk, Lancashire, plans to market the tee within a couple of months. But Tim Daniels of Second Chance, which held the Arnold Palmer concession until last year, is less optimistic. He said the tees broke easily, and there were many complaints from customers



Soaring hopes: two versions of Paul Davidson's tee, which leaves the back of the ball exposed, left. Its swivelling steel forerunner, right, has already been banned. Mr Davidson believes that the club should strike only the ball, never the tee



trying them out. They had not been a great success in the United States.

Another inventor, Paul Davidson, on the other hand, believes that the club should strike only the ball, not touching the tee at all. Two years

ago his Master Tee, a swivelling steel contraption costing around £30, was banned by the Royal and Ancient. He has now come up with a device, costing a fraction of a penny to produce, in which the rim of the cup runs only

two thirds of the way round the front of the ball, leaving the back exposed so that only the ball and not the tee is hit by the club. He has produced two versions, one to be inserted at a 45-degrees. Lots of people have testified that it

works," he said yesterday. "If you hit a round object with a flat surface, it can only go one way," he added — which must be news to most golfers.

The R and A said yesterday that, as none of the designs had been submitted for in-

spection, it could not comment. Equipment makers were not required to submit products for approval, but it added ominously that the rules committee would investigate any complaints of unfair practice.

The history of the Grand Old Game is littered with often disputatious attempts to introduce devices designed to ease the pain and suffering.

In May 1967 a joint committee of the Royal and Ancient and the United States Golf Association agreed a ban on putters shaped like croquet mallets,

though it was far from clear that these would help any-one's game.

In August 1977 the great American golfer Tom Watson found his clubs outlawed on the eve of the PGA championship at Pebble Beach, California, because the grooves in

the club faces were too wide and too many. That foreshadowed a long dispute between the association and the makers of Ping clubs over the use of square grooves, which were said to impart an inordinate amount of backspin. An Arizona court eventually found in Ping's favour.

Many years before, Americans had been introduced to the Faultless, a "solid" ball which was claimed to be immune to cuts and scuff and which apparently did not find general favour. More bizarre was the claim by one Arthur Pendrick in 1976 to have invented a "hovering" golf ball, using a special high-voltage generator to produce an electrostatic field surrounding the tee. In 1988 the Royal and Ancient banned Japanese balls deemed to travel too fast.

Nation on the edge of its seat as Granada v Forte goes to the last round

Armchair armies dig in for battle of the City giants

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JOE JOSEPH

GRANADA's bid for the Forte hotel empire has joined the select few financial battles which not only dominate City wine bar charter, but also interest people with no shares in either combatant.

With just a week before investors make crunch decisions on Granada's offer, both sides have attracted die-hard supporters who champion their camp and study every news dispatch from the front. The opinions of these spectators has grown as polarised as those of the two companies.

And it is not just about money, even though most of the nation has some indirect stake through the investments of their pension funds and life insurance companies, or their television and leisure interests, or even their choice of service station.

Forte's armchair army is charmed by Rocco Forte's suave manner. His supporters are convinced that Gerry Robinson, boss of the Granada television and catering group, still deserves the insult so memorably slung on his appointment, when John Cleese called him an "ignorant upstart caterer" — even though the two have long since made their peace.

Robinson's fans admire his



business record and wag an admonishing finger at the "fusty" management of the Forte group, led by a chief executive who was out shooting on the morning the bid broke. Among City and industry figures the consensus is that the bid has swung Granada's way, although even ardent Robinson supporters are prepared to compliment Forte on its defence.

Author and television presenter Melvyn Bragg has few doubts: "Forte have made a spirited defence but they have not answered the questions being asked."

Bragg, outgoing chairman of Border Television, has dealt with Robinson as both a business friend and enemy.

Briggs was on the board of

London Weekend Television when Granada launched its successful £735 million bid there. He is now a Robinson employee, as head of arts at LWT, and says: "The company has an extremely efficient management team. In my experience it has proved to be a most benevolent employer."

An experienced City figure remarked: "It has boiled down to an argument between cash and Rocco Forte. I would rather have the cash."

Also waving their flags for the Granada camp are David Michaels, chief executive of the hotel group Stakis; Francis Mackay, chief executive at caterers Compass, where Robinson first made his name; and Rudolph Agnew, chairman of Lasmo, which fought off a £1.6 billion bid from Enterprise Oil in 1994.

Many City fund managers, who have a pivotal role, seem to have lined up behind Granada. Stakis' Scott Meech, a UK fund manager at Threadneedle Asset Management, which holds a small stake in Forte, said that recent share purchases by major institutional shareholders had been made in both companies, a tactic that is believed to favour Granada as it supports the company's share price and



The contenders: Rocco Forte, left, is either a suave sophisticate or head of a "fusty" management. Gerry Robinson is highly efficient — or an "upstart caterer"

preserves the value of the bid. In particular, Mercury Asset Management, which holds around 15 per cent in Forte and Granada, has been sporting this tactic. The MAM team — headed by vice-chairwoman Carol Galley, reputedly the highest-paid professional woman in Britain — played a key role in ensuring Robinson won the 1994 battle for LWT. Ms Galley's tactics infuriated Greg Dyke, then of LWT and now chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television, who accused her of a lack of trust and short-termism, but they have secured her repu-

tation as one of the City's most powerful women.

Forte is far from friendless. Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of the electrical retailer Dixons, said: "The days of wild conglomerate activity are past and I see no industrial logic in the Granada bid whatsoever."

Lord Rees-Mogg, ex-chairman of publishers Sidgwick and Jackson, which was previously owned by Forte, said: "Granada spends its time claiming to be the better manager, but the management logic of its proposals is much weaker."

One supportive fund man-

ager criticised Forte shareholders for using the takeover as a route to better management: "If they want better management they could have acted against the board years ago."

Other prominent supporters include Sir John Egan, chief executive of the airports group BAA, and Brian Winterford, managing director of City market-makers Winterford. Everyone agrees the battle will go right to the wire.

Letters, page 17
City, page 40

Grand Prix stars face driving test

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FORMULA ONE racing-drivers, among the world's highest paid sportsmen, are to be forced to sit a written test on safety before they are allowed to compete in Grands Prix from next year.

Max Moseley, the president of International Motor Sport Federation, said: "There have been one or two cases of drivers doing things they ought not to do because they didn't know the rules. On two occasions at least, drivers have been before the world council [on motor-racing] because they broke the rules. One admitted he did not know what they were."

Formula One drivers with the experience of the world champion Michael Schumacher and his arch-rival Damon Hill will have to turn up in Paris once a year to sit the multiple-choice test under strict exam conditions.

The questions use rules on warning-flags, the use of safety cars, aborted races, behaviour in the pit lane and what to do if the car spins and ends up facing the wrong way. The test will not cover controversial

Legion wants US to study Gulf War Syndrome here

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Royal British Legion yesterday urged the Government to invite the American group investigating so-called Gulf War Syndrome to come to this country to take evidence from British veterans.

"There is cause for concern, and we would like more answers," Bobby Hanscomb, the Legion's assistant secretary, said. "There are plenty of reasons to look further."

A survey involving only British troops would be expensive and probably statistically too small to be conclusive, he said. It would be far better to include them in the much larger US exercise, involving some 30,000 men and women.

The ex-servicemen's charity has been approached by more than 400 survivors of the 1991 campaign to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, about half of whom have since been granted disability pensions.

Although the public tends to think of the Legion as a social club which turns out for Remembrance services, the organisation was set up in 1921 in order to plead the case of

shell-shocked victims of the First World War. Colonel Terry English, the Legion's welfare controller, said it was always ready to take up a cause if there had been an injustice or the Government was ignoring complaints.

The American survey em-

braced two groups of about 15,000 people each, he said. The Legion would like to include about 100 British servicemen in each group. Symptoms ranged from se-

Bush recalls, page 11
Photograph, page 20

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Rock stars drum up the young vote

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

BRITAIN'S leading rock stars are to launch a series of concerts, music videos and advertisements to encourage 18 to 24-year-olds to vote at the next general election. The non-partisan campaign, called Rock the Vote, is expected to be supported by Damon Albarn, lead singer of the group Blur, and by the bands Oasis, M-People and Simply Red.

John Preston, chairman of the record company BMG and a member of the Rock the Vote board, said that it was designed to help first-time voters feel that they were part of the political system. According to MORI, around half of all 18 to 24-year-olds did not vote in 1992 and 15 per cent have already made up their minds not to vote next time.

"For first-time voters, single issue politics are often more important than parliamentary politics. There is a danger that we could lose a generation of people from the political scene," he said. The campaign will be officially launched at the Ministry of Sound night club in south London on February 18.

Offa's Dyke for sale



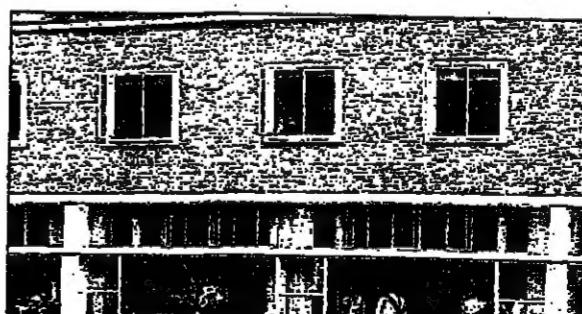
British Coal is selling part of Offa's Dyke, right, in a major disposal of land and properties in northeast Wales. The 100-metre area of the historic earthworks, at Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, Clwyd, is among more than 1,000 acres of assets being sold by the former state-owned corporation. The 177-mile path was built between 757 and 796 by Offa, King of Mercia, to mark the frontier set by his wars with the Welsh.

Letters, page 17
City, page 40

South drinks more wine

Twenty per cent of households in London serve wine at home more than three times a week, according to a survey for Victoria Wine. However, in the East Midlands that figure drops to 6 per cent, while 35 per cent in Yorkshire, Humberside, the West Midlands and Wales never serve wine in their home, compared with 27 per cent nationally.

Goldfinger home to let



The National Trust is seeking a tenant for the modernist home of Erno Goldfinger, the Hungarian architect. The three-bedroom maisonette, above, in Willow Road, Hampstead, northwest London, is noted for its 1930s fittings and works of art by Henry Moore, Max Ernst and Roland Penrose. It is due to open to the public in April after being refurbished by the trust, which launched an appeal to buy the art when it acquired it in 1994. Rent, which includes use of the one-acre garden, is £325 a week.

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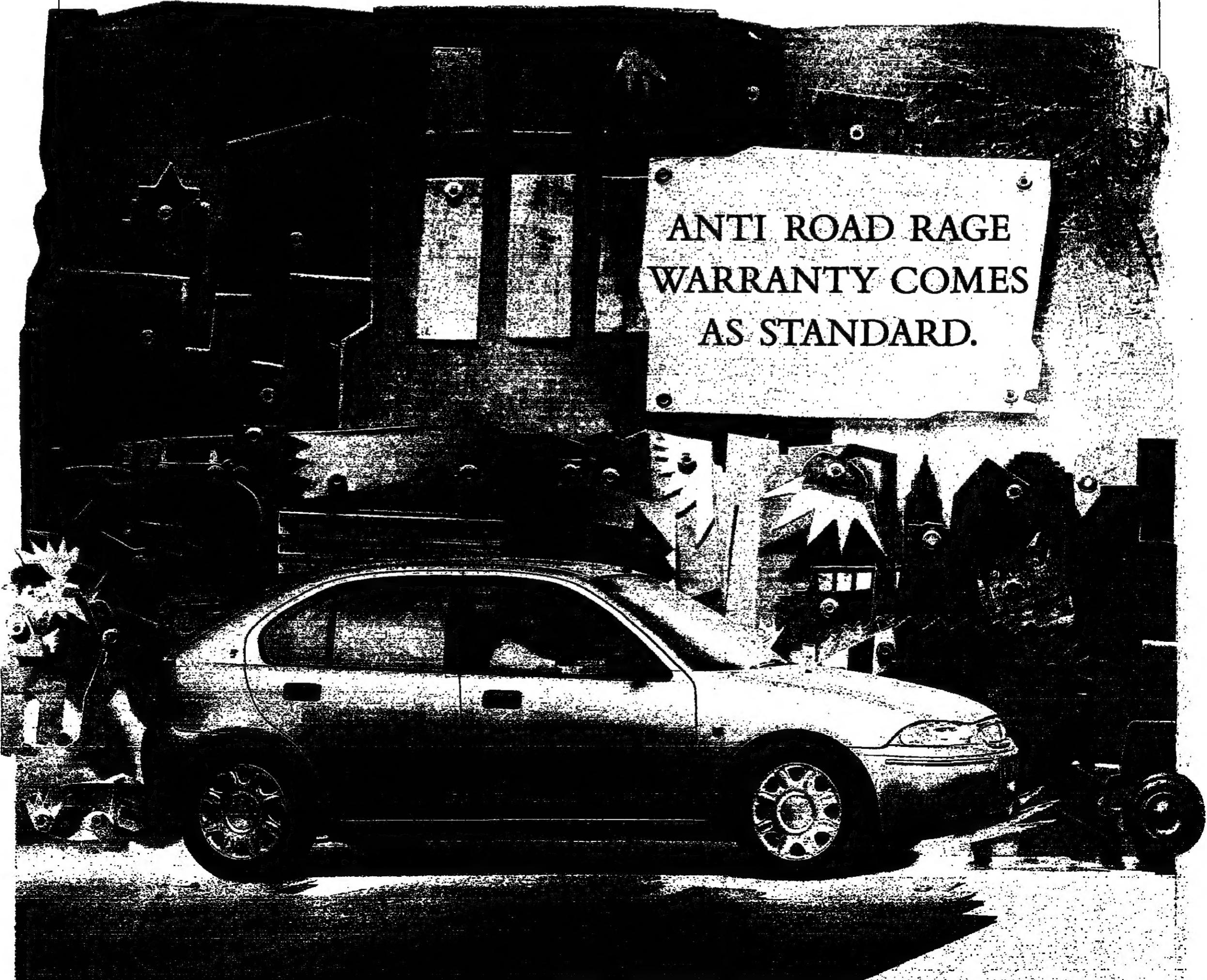
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Unwelcome spotlight turned on Berlusconi as he faces corruption trial

LAMBERTO DINI, the caretaker Prime Minister brought in a year ago to save Italy from chaos, faces an uncertain future himself this week following his latest reluctant resignation.

President Scalfaro today begins soundings on whether there is all-party support for a continuation of an interim Government, either led by Signor Dini or another stopgap leader, until June, when Italy ends its EU presidency.

Since the President is against early elections, the chances are that Signor Dini will soldier on. But he will do so with diminished authority, and waiting in the wings is the man who led the centre-right

No one is writing off the former Prime Minister as he prepares to counter charges of corporate bribery. Richard Owen reports from Rome

coalition which collapsed at the end of 1994, Silvio Berlusconi.

Signor Berlusconi, however, goes on trial in Milan on Wednesday on corruption charges. The television and property magnate, who moved with such flourish in early 1994 from global business to high politics to regenerate the Italian economy and clean up public life, does not have to appear but has said he will.

Doubts about Signor Berlusconi — his huge business empire, his

control of television, his lack of political experience — were swept aside. When he fell in December 1994, however, it was not only because of disagreements among his coalition partners, but also because disillusion had set in.

If the anti-corruption drive was to be completed, many Italians thought, it would have to be done by a "technocratic" Government such as that led by Signor Dini, who came from the morally upright world of the central bank.

Yet no commentator is counting out Signor Berlusconi. Throughout the interim Dini Government he has hovered in the background, now demanding elections, now

favouring a "broad coalition" to include himself.

The charges relate to three bribes given between 1989 and 1992 to the tax authorities to ensure favourable tax inspection of three subsidiaries of Signor Berlusconi's Fininvest.

There is no doubt that the payments were made. Paolo Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister's brother, has admitted as much. He and Salvatore Sciascia, the head of Fininvest's tax department, are also in the dock.

Signor Berlusconi's defence is that the bribes were a "rare and isolated episode" of which he had no personal knowledge. He depicts the investigation as a politically

motivated act of malice inspired by Antonio de Pietro, the Milan magistrate who began the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive.

At the time, opinion polls showed that seven out of ten Italians thought he should stay in office. But then he overreached himself: he tried to use his prime ministerial powers to interfere in the proceedings. He also used his television channels to make his case and damn Signor de Pietro.

Many Italians still recall Signor Berlusconi's virtues: his energy, his free-market philosophy, his bold attempts to cut through the numerous regulations which hamper Italian business.

His aides pour scorn on the bribery charges, pointing out that his sheer wealth means he has no need to resort to backhanders.

But the more general charge levelled against Signor Berlusconi in retrospect, however, is that he failed to divest himself of his business empire while in high office, and so exposed himself to obvious conflicts of interest.

But he is still a towering figure, so much so that the heart of the matter at Milan will be whether it is plausible that he was unaware of financial skulduggery in his key companies. In the time-honoured formula, it is a question of what he knew and when he knew it.

Troops moved in for war of bluff with Chechens

Russia extends deadline for hostages' release

FROM CARLOTTA GALL OUTSIDE PERVOMAISKOYE, DAGESTAN, AND THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA has given Chechen rebels holding more than 100 hostages in a village on the Dagestan border until today to free them.

The ultimatum, issued last night, came after two earlier deadlines expired yesterday. The extension was made apparently to enable Moscow's top two security officials, Mikhail Barykov, head of the federal security service, who is in overall charge of the operation, and Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, to arrive at the tense scene.

Earlier, officials said Chechen snipers had shot at troops surrounding them, wounding up to four. But the Russians did not return fire. The claim could not be confirmed independently.

Strategy born of desperation

MOSCOW: The mass seizure of hostages by Chechen gunmen outside the borders of their republic is as much a sign of desperation as of their continuing strength (Thomas de Waal writes).

The main thrust of the strategy of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen President, appears to be that, if he cannot win the war, he can at least ensure that the Russians lose it, and has blessed a strategy of lightning raids

inside Russia. "Now, with practically the whole of Chechnya destroyed, we have no option but to cross into your territory and destroy your towns and kill your people," General Dudayev told *Moskovsky Komsomolets* last week.

The rebels are still in control of the southern mountainous third of Chechnya, but have lost their capital, Grozny. Only a hard core of fighters remain with them.

The strategy shows no respect for civilian life or for the Chechens' Muslim neighbours in Dagestan, who have sheltered thousands of refugees.

General Dudayev freely admitted that the worse the situation was in Chechnya the better it was for him. "If they pull out, it will be much harder for me as President to rule the country," he said. He said he had no money to support the economy.

On Saturday night, Russian jets dropped flares on Pervomaiskoye throughout the night. At dawn yesterday, more than 200 special troops were seen stealthily moving through the fog towards the village. Behind them, orange-red smoke drifted across the fields. Many carried long-barrelled sniper rifles.

Aleksandr Mikhailov, a spokesman for the intelligence service, said they had "enough force" to implement the mid-morning ultimatum to the guzzmen to surrender.

However, if the show of force was intended to make the rebels back down, it seems not to have worked. At noon the special troops were driven out in buses, although a special field hospital set up

outside the village remained. The Chechens continue to be defiant. Salman Raduyev, their leader, said he would "fight to the end". He was still insisting that a delegation of Moscow politicians and journalists accompany his men into Chechnya in return for the hostages' freedom.

"Now that we have been deceived and blocked in this village, and they are not allowing us to move anywhere, we no longer believe anyone and we all have got ready to die," he told a reporter from *Izvestia*.

In Moscow, Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party which topped last month's parliamentary elections, said he "did not understand" what the Government was up to. He said the crisis ought to be resolved successfully.

□ Bodies found: Russian police are examining the possibility that the discovery of bodies of five Dagestanis on Friday in the Moscow region is linked to the Chechen separatist movement.

Among the dead was a four-year-old child, Tass reported. The bodies, all showing signs of violence, were found in the town of Kolomna, southeast of Moscow, on Friday. The body of a fifth man, carrying Dagestani papers, was also found the same day in nearby Andreivka. (AFP)



President Soares, who is bowing out after ten years, queues up to vote yesterday

Socialist triumph in Lisbon

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LISBON

JORGE SAMPAIO, the Socialist former Mayor of Lisbon, defeated Anibal Cavaco Silva, the former Prime Minister, in the election to succeed Mario Soares as President, state and private television stations reported last night.

According to exit polls released by SIC, Portugal's most popular channel, Senhor Sampaio, 56, a quiet-spoken lawyer, was poised to capture 59 per cent of the vote. Senhor Cavaco Silva, also 56, who steered Portugal through ten years of economic modernisation, was expected to win 41 per cent, the channel predicted. The state RTP television

station projected 56-60 per cent for Senhor Sampaio and 40-44 per cent for Senhor Cavaco Silva.

The predicted result marked the end of an era for Portugal, with the disappearance from the political scene of its two dominant figures — Senhor Soares, the affable defender of civil rights and tolerance, and Senhor Cavaco Silva, the austere economist and technocrat.

A win by Senhor Sampaio also gives Portugal a head of state and an administration of the same political hue for the first time since the 1974 "Revolution of the Carnations" restored democracy. Since that

time, voters have viewed the presidency as a counter-weight, electing a head of state of a different persuasion to the dominant party in parliament.

Senhor Soares, first elected in 1986, kept Senhor Cavaco Silva's government in check by his veto power and using his widespread popularity to influence public opinion. Constitutionally, yesterday's result was a clear reprimand for Senhor Cavaco Silva and a reversal of the 1991 legislative election results. That year, Senhor Cavaco Silva's Social Democrats won a landslide victory over Senhor Sampaio, then Socialist Party leader.

The most disturbing factor is the prospect of Free Democrats crossing the floor to join the Social Democrats. At least four names are being mentioned.

The tiny, ailing liberal Free Democrat Party may simply be engaged in brinkmanship. In March, there are three critical regional elections and the party is recording dismal results in the latest opinion polls.

Political pundits say the deflection talk is serious and that added to other problems — the slowdown in the economy and the rise in unemployment — Herr Kohl has drifted into one of his most awkward political crises since becoming Chancellor in 1982.

— Certainly the Chancellor is looking distinctly rattled. He has given interviews emphasising that Germany is not on the brink of a recession and that the Free Democrats will stay in business.

After months of extraordinarily high popularity ratings — encouraging the Christian Democrats to believe they could stage early elections and sweep up an absolute majority — the Chancellor is on a slide. The federal deficit overshot the budgeted level by DM1.2 billion (£35 million), according to government statistics published at the weekend.

Croat-Muslim feud in Mostar puts peace deal at risk

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON has warned the Croats not to endanger peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as concern grows over the violence and tension in the divided southern city of Mostar.

The Croats have been accused of deliberately stirring up trouble in the city, leading to fatal shootings this month, because of bitter opposition to the peace accord reached in Dayton, Ohio, under which Mostar is to be reunified.

Mr Clinton spoke to President Tudjman of Croatia in Zagreb on Saturday, and sought his help in keeping the Muslim/Croat Federation alive. The federation between the Muslims and Croats was signed March 1994 and the peace accord states that Bosnia should be split between it and a Serb republic.

Mostar has become the focus of international attention because it is there that the federation appears to be most at risk and the peace accord depends on its survival. Mostar's eastern Muslim sector was destroyed by the Croats' most concentrated artillery barrage in the three and a half years of war.

Mr Clinton and Mr Tudjman agreed that Robert Owen, the American mediator for the federation, would go to Mostar to resolve the continuing ethnic conflict.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, who was in the city yesterday, spoke of Croat forces trying to disrupt the federation. He said: "We must bridge the hatred. The federation must not fail." Reunification under Dayton

is supposed to take place on Saturday. However, as the recent eruptions of violence have underlined, this city is still suffering from long-standing hatreds and feuds.

The Croat political figures in the area are among the most ultra-nationalist in Bosnia. They have always opposed the federation because it eclipses their power and destroys their ambition to turn Mostar into an ethnically pure capital of a Croat state.

East Mostar, home of 55,000 Muslims, was systematically attacked for ten months by the Croats who live on the other side of the Neretva river that divides the city. The Muslims have, however, always wanted Mostar to be multi-ethnic and, despite their suffering, they back reunification.

Yesterday Herr Kinkel held talks with Mate Gruev, the Croatian Foreign Minister, and Mohamed Sacirbey, his Bosnian counterpart. He also met Hans Koschnick, the German European Union administrator of Mostar, and the mayors and police chiefs of both parts of the city. Herr Koschnick is to present a report on the reunification in two weeks.

Admiral Leighton Smith, the American commander of the Nato-led Implementation Force, who was also in Mostar, said that an officer would be appointed to liaise between his troops and the EU administration. He said that he was ready to help to reconcile Muslims and Croats in the city, but he emphasised that it was a civilian, not a military, matter.

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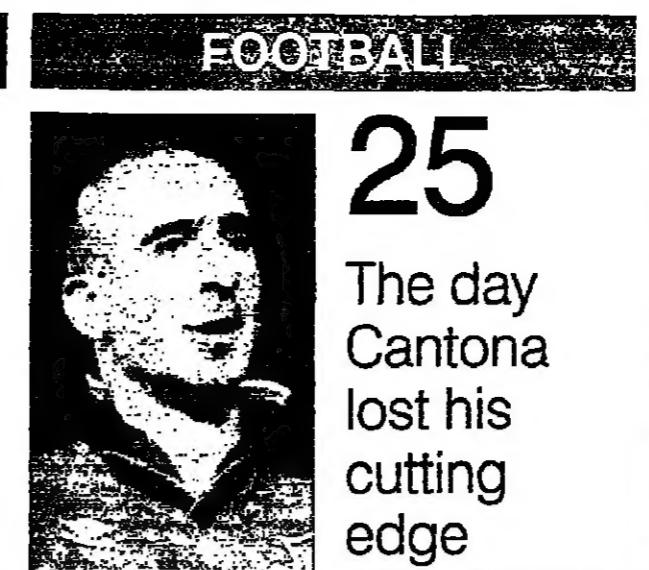
Brittle challenge forces RFU to retreat



CRICKET

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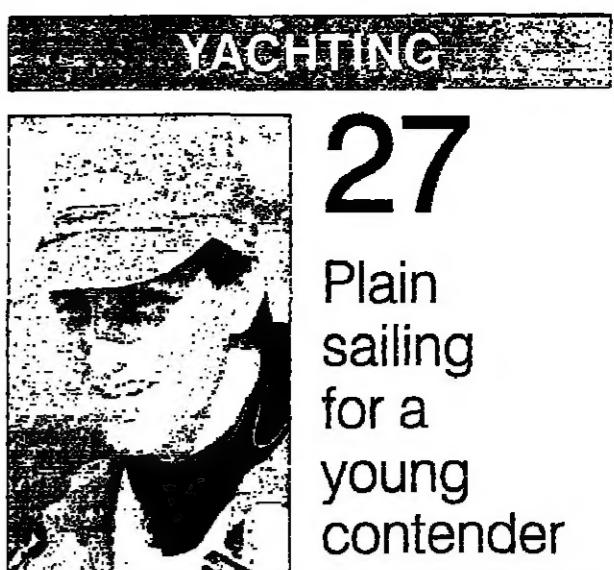
England put to the sword in South Africa



FOOTBALL

25

The day Cantona lost his cutting edge



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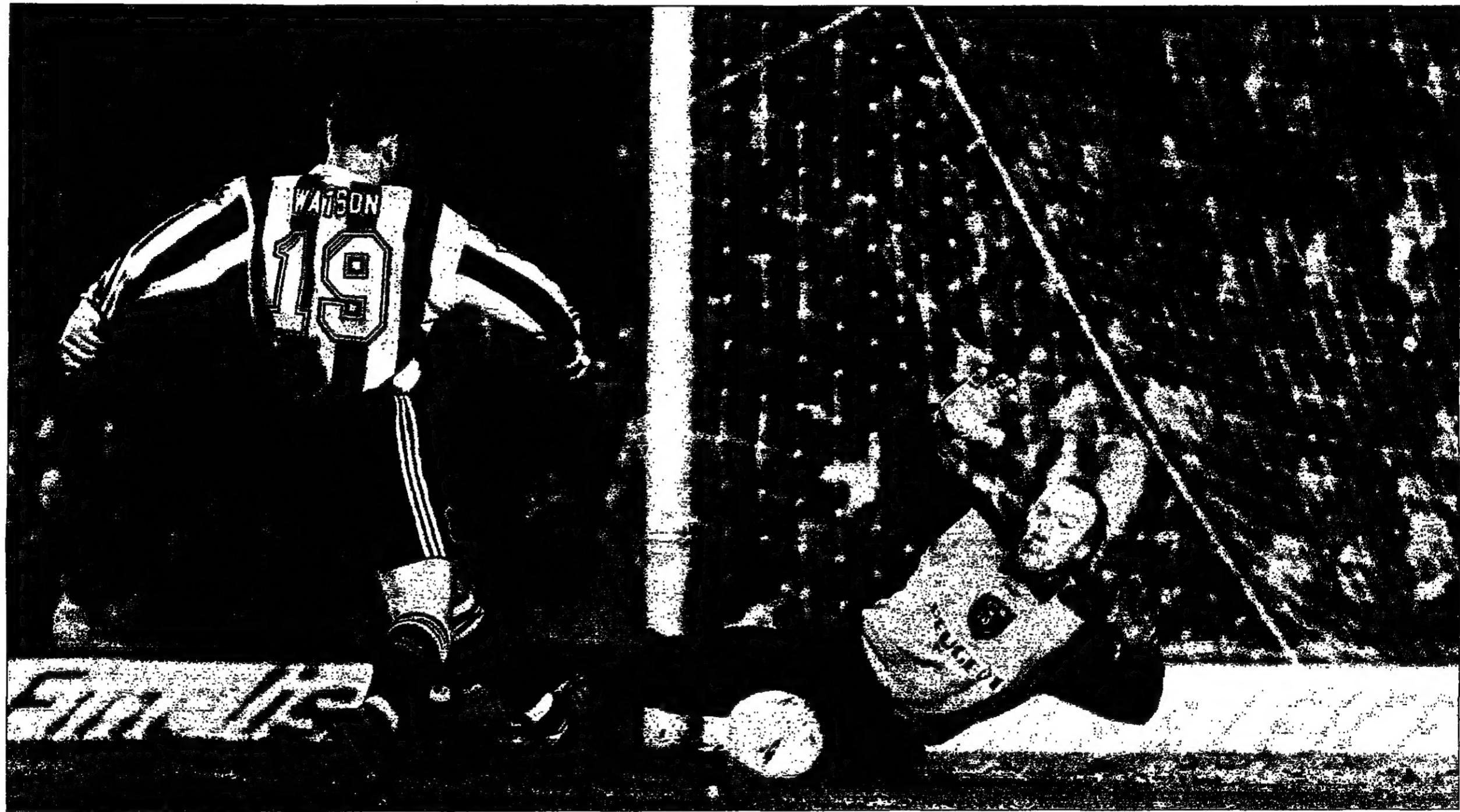
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Plain sailing for a young contender

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 15 1996

PREMIERSHIP LEADERS GO NINE POINTS CLEAR



Watson toe-pokes the ball past Ogrizovic, the outstretched Coventry goalkeeper, to give Newcastle the lead on the stroke of half-time at Highfield Road yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Venables backed for technical vacancy

By DAVID MADDOCK

AFTER three months of travel sickness, Newcastle United steadied their stomachs with a timely dose of away points at Highfield Road yesterday. It was their first FA Carling Premiership victory away from Fortress St James for three months since November and, if not quite the sweetest medicine, the tonic to Newcastle's championship hopes was stout enough. The destiny of the championship is in our own hands. With a game in hand, Newcastle lead the Premiership by nine points.

Venables has suggested that he made the decision to stand down because he failed to solicit adequate support from key members of the FA's international committee: mainly Noel White, the chairman, and Ian Stott, a member of the three-man sub-committee that appointed him.

Yesterday, however, Stott offered the backing that Venables seems to desire by suggesting that he has his total support as a candidate for the new position of technical director. Such backing is significant because Stott is also a member of the FA's technical control board, which will make the appointment.

Stott said: "I do feel that Terry may not need to be lost to English football. My own view is that he would be a likely candidate for the director of coaching position. I feel we should consider this, when the dust is settled, as a way of putting Terry's experience to future use."

New ball game, page 16

Watson leads way home

By ANDREW LONGMORE

Coventry City 0
Newcastle United 1

After three months of travel sickness, Newcastle United steadied their stomachs with a timely dose of away points at Highfield Road yesterday. It was their first FA Carling Premiership victory away from Fortress St James for three months since November and, if not quite the sweetest medicine, the tonic to Newcastle's championship hopes was stout enough. The destiny of the championship is in our own hands. With a game in hand, Newcastle lead the Premiership by nine points.

The victory, earned by Salako's error and Watson's calmness moments before half-time, did little to suggest that the call of Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, for more "inspiration" had been answered positively, but the manner with which Newcastle went about their business put into perspective recent suggestions that they might not have the nerve for the fight.

Long gone was the cavalier spirit of the early days. This was time to roll up sleeves, time to dispense with imagination, rely on industry and, on a sandy pitch not ideal for the quick-passing game favoured by both managers, to hit and hope. "We got a bit lucky and, after that, it was all hands to the pump," was Keegan's pertinent summary. That the match was settled by a bad mistake rather than a piece of magic was an appropriate comment on a scrappy game. "A massive three points," Keegan added.

Only when Nduva went on for Telfer ten minutes from the end did Coventry City look like penetrating Peacock and

tireless running, probing and tackling put Ferdinand, his ambling partner at the front, to shame. Ferdinand had one chance, late in the game, but took a second too long to score.

Beardsley, though, remained the one link with the pre-Christmas Newcastle. His

tireless running, probing and tackling put Ferdinand, his ambling partner at the front, to shame. Ferdinand had one chance, late in the game, but took a second too long to score.

control Watson's early cross. Otherwise, he seemed hampered by an injury to his left leg that required treatment within the first quarter.

The Newcastle bandwagon had begun to roll in late summer with a handsome victory over Coventry at St James' Park and, until a month ago, the prospect of a return would have hardly filled Keegan's men with foreboding.

However, a combination of Coventry's recent improvement, one defeat in their past six matches, and Newcastle's desultory away form, allied to a belief expressed by Arsenal in midweek that the Premiership leaders do not "like it up 'em", had invested yesterday with wider significance.

Not the least of the men on show was Peter Jones, the referee. Would he afford Ginola the protection that the Frenchman had so markedly lacked when he was sent off by Gerald Ashby at Highbury? The answer, happily for all but the Coventry supporters, was encouraging.

Unlike Ashby, Jones could spot the forgery a mile away and an early piece of theatricals by Ginola brought a look of disdain and a call to play on. When Pickering did catch up with his tormentor, from behind, Jones rightly ruled straight for the book.

Not that the supporters let Ginola off lightly. He was jeered for every touch. What a jamboree the European championships will be. Whole teams of foreigners to bairn.

Mindful of the threat of Dublin and the pace of Salako, Keegan reverted to the trusted 4-4-2 with Watson on the right of midfield. Coventry countered by pushing up quickly at the back and hitting early balls for Whelan and Dublin to chase. Harried in midfield, they were compressed at the front and, with Ferdinand almost a passenger, surprisingly short on attacking options.

It took a touch of nonchalance and a slice of luck to bring Newcastle the decisive goal just a minute before half-time. In trying to volley a long cross clear, Salako just dropped the ball into the path of Watson, who waltzed past Hall and toe-poked the ball past Ogrizovic. Not the prettiest of goals, but devastating for the home side, nonetheless.

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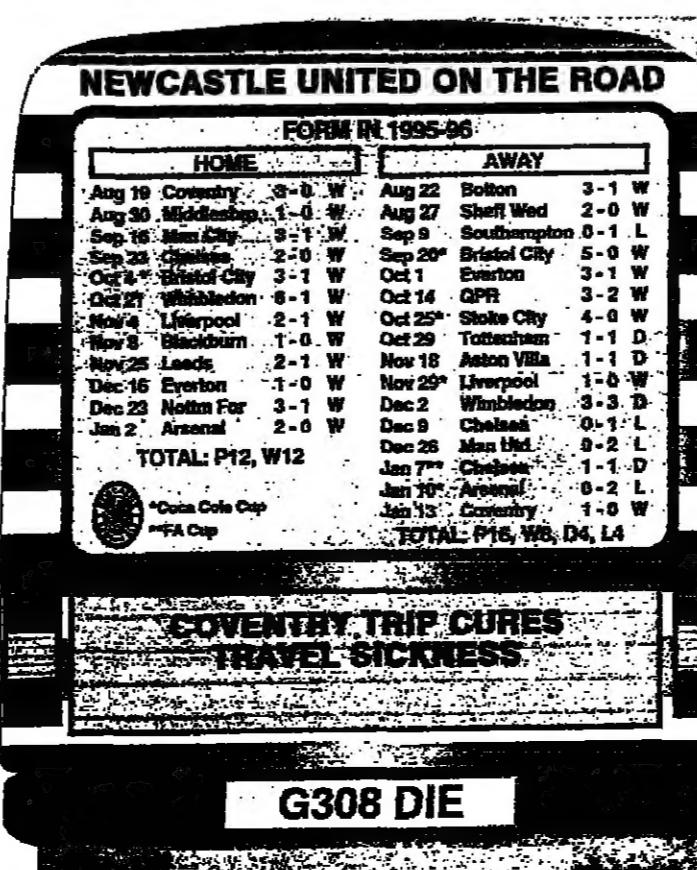
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Weekend of double defeat exposes limitations of much-vaunted World Cup challenge

England left with lofty ambition in tatters

FROM SIMON WILDE IN PRETORIA

PRETORIA (England won toss; South Africa beat England by seven wickets)

ENGLAND'S ambitions of winning the cricket World Cup were left looking remote and foolish yesterday as they were beaten with ridiculous ease by a South Africa side that they had confidently regarded as inferior. They can assume no longer, albeit that South Africa are not ideally suited to the limited-over game.

South Africa's main problem is that their batsmen are too inhibited and lacking in imagination — or at least that was the theory until England's bold and innocuous attack yesterday encouraged them to think in a new light.

England were defending a total of 272, a good but unexceptional score on a perfect batting pitch at Centurion Park, and it ought to have been enough for them at least to stay in the match until the death.

Yet they lost with 12 balls to spare and it was distressingly clear from early in the South Africa innings, as Hudson and Kirsten raced to 50 in the eleventh over, that only one team was going to win. England simply failed to bowl to their field-settings and served up too many "four" balls.

Cork, whose absence on Saturday was supposedly a fair excuse for England's defeat in Johannesburg, was prodigal in his determination to attack when frugality might have brought his rewards; Illingworth, ostensibly the leading slow bowler, went for 65 runs in nine overs in his first match for 16 days. These two are supposedly key elements in England's World Cup plans.

So, too, is White, judging by his presence in every match so far in this seven-match series, which England now trail 3-1. Yet he bowled without rhythm or confidence and cast a miserable figure, wearing the puzzled frown of one for whom the game has become unfathomably difficult.

Defreitas and Gough, who delivered the only maiden over of the innings, bowled with more discipline and the latter posed dangers. He had one convincing appeal for leg before turned down against Hudson, whom he later dismissed.



Kirsten drives Gough to the boundary on his way to 116 at Centurion Park yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

Rampakash and Russell batted only for the good. Rampakash, having reacquainted himself with runmaking the previous day, equalled his highest one-day score for England and showed touches of class.

Before this weekend, Russell had missed 49 one-day internationals, dating back to May 1991, on the assumption that he could not bat.

His response, this weekend, was to score 57 runs from 31 balls and England are now seriously considering whether their best team should contain him and Stewart. Perhaps there are other characters whom the management should be re-assessing.

SCOREBOARD FROM CENTURION PARK

| England won toss | | ENGLAND | | SOUTH AFRICA | |
|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| A J Stewart c Gough b Symons | 94 | B Gough c Smith b Donald | 63 | C Hudson c Gough b Gough | 11 |
| (55min, 10 balls, 6 fours) | | G A Smith c Symons b Donald | 63 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| G A Smith c Symons b Donald | 63 | G A Smith c Symons b Donald | 63 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (134min, 90 balls, 6 fours) | | G A Smith c Symons b Donald | 63 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symons | 121 | G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symons | 121 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (18min, 17 balls, 2 fours) | | G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symons | 121 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symons | 121 | G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symons | 121 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (18min, 17 balls, 2 fours) | | G P Thorpe c Pollock b Symons | 121 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| M P Pollock c Gough b Donald | 32 | M P Pollock c Gough b Donald | 32 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (54min, 44 balls, 1 four) | | G White c Donald b Gough | 19 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| G White c Donald b Gough | 19 | G White c Donald b Gough | 19 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (38min, 50 balls, 1 four) | | G White c Donald b Gough | 19 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| D G Cork c Richardson b Mathews | 0 | D G Cork c Richardson b Mathews | 0 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (0min, 2 balls) | | D G Cork c Richardson b Mathews | 0 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| P A Donald c Gough b Gough | 2 | P A Donald c Gough b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (1min, 3 balls) | | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| D Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | D Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (4min, 1 ball) | | D Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| B Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| (5min, 1 ball) | | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 2 | B Gough c Smith b Gough | 11 |
| Total (8 wks, 50 overs, 300min) | 272 | Total (8 wks, 50 overs, 300min) | 272 | Total (8 wks, 50 overs, 300min) | 199 |
| FALL OF WICKETS 1-103 (Smith 35, 2-139 (Smith 49, 3-168 (Smith 58, 4-174 | | FALL OF WICKETS 1-103 (Krause 82, 2-223 (Cronje 33, 3-247 (Cuthbert 10) | | FALL OF WICKETS 1-103 (Krause 82, 2-223 (Cronje 33, 3-247 (Cuthbert 10) | |

SOUTH AFRICA

C Hudson b Gough 17
G Kallis c Gough b Gough 7
G Kallis c Gough b Gough 11
G Kallis c Gough b Gough 11
W J Cronje c Thorpe b Gough 47
D Gough c Smith b Gough 22
D Gough c Smith b Gough 22
J H Kallis not out 14
J H Kallis not out 14
J H Kallis not out 14
Total 8 wks, 49 overs, 162min 275
J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, D J Richardson, P Symons, C R Mathews and A D Donald not out

FALL OF WICKETS 1-156 (Krause 82, 2-223 (Cronje 33, 3-247 (Cuthbert 10)

Match details: G Kallis
Umpires: W DeFreitas and K E Leiberman
Referee: C W Smits (West Indies)

SERIES DETAILS

Jan 9: Cape Town: South Africa won by an 8-wk.

Jan 11: Bloemfontein: England won by five wickets.

Jan 13: Johannesburg: South Africa won by three wickets.

Jan 14: Pretoria: South Africa won by seven wickets.

Match details: G Kallis

Umpires: R E Koertzen and D L Orchard

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Rigg adds international flavour to cross country

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A CALIFORNIAN holds the English women's national cross country title. An Irishman won the Reebok United Kingdom inter-counties race on Saturday and the women's champion speaks with an American accent. Great Britain's once sure-footed harriers, though showing pockets of resistance, are still mainly on slippery ground.

There are many reasons for Britain's international decline, including Africa's emergence, government support in other leading European nations and apathy from the British Athletic Federation (BAF). The lack of

international races on mainland Britain, other than in the North East of England, has not helped. Yet assistance may be on its way. Luton Borough Council, which has hosted the inter-counties event for the past three years, has agreed to see out the century, but is not stopping there. It wants to promote an event similar to the televised Durham International.

The facilities are good, the back-up is good, everybody wants it to happen and we are prepared to pitch in the resources," Roy Davis, the leader of the council, said. "We are enthusiastic and think we could find a sponsor." If that does not prompt an embracing letter from Peter Radford, the BAF executive chair-

man, the governing body's apparent marginal interest at management level in cross country will be confirmed.

Luton council has been encouraged

to aim higher by the inter-counties handshake on a further three-year agreement. "That must give the impression we are doing the job right," Dave Magill, the chairman of leisure and amenities, said.

The Luton course is testing, but it

proved no problem for Suzanne Rigg. Raised in Iowa, but eligible for Britain since 1992, Rigg won the women's race ten months after Kate McCandless, an American, won the English national championship.

Will the BAF now repay Rigg the

favour that it owes her from 1993?

Seething over the late withdrawal of Liz McGolgan from the European Cup, Rigg answered an emergency call, though she had run two distance races that week. "Someone has got to do it," she said at the time.

Rigg would like an indication that

she will be picked for the Olympic

marathon. "It has been my dream

since I was a child, though I did not

dream I would be running it for

Britain," she said. Without an assur-

ance, she feels that she will have to

run the Boston Marathon in April to

push her claim. Ironically, that

would rule her out of the world cross

country championships, weakening

Britain's team.

John Downes, an Irishman who wore a Middlesex vest to inter-counties victory, is also hoping that his national federation will hear a plea. "They said that, if we did not finish in the first six teams at the Europeans, they would not send a team," he said. "We finished seventh."

"Each year, we are going there, get slaughtered and it is money spent

wrongly, so they think. If they stick to that, I hope they will send me as an individual," David Bedford, the former 10,000-metre world record-holder, whose high-mileage training is legendary, coaches Downes. Now, Downes is on 150 miles a week and has had to give up his job as a builder to cope with the load.

Miller could not have written his name straight let alone hit the ball.

I watched the opening game from the top seats, but moved down — there were no

restrictions — closer to the action, partly to check whether Miller did look as

much like Nigel Mansell as I

thought he did, partly to feel

the force of Syed's mind

games. Miller looked worse.

He was Nigel Mansell, simper

perhaps, but with the

same moustache and I suspect

the same gift for inventing

excuses.

On one side of Syed, a Hungarian

and a Greek were doing battle in machine-gun

bursts with those hops and

skips peculiar to table tennis

players and volleys of self-congratulation or abuse. It

was difficult to tell the score

because I was at the end of the

court, the scorers were facing

each other across the table and

with 12 courts in three rows of four, separated by a

huge black curtain, the voice

of the scorer was hard to pick

out. I think that the Greek

was the happier and the hand-shaking.

After Syed had finished, there was a lot of practising, young women clipping balls

across the table with hypnotic

precision. Control is the key to

table tennis because the balance

of power can shift so

suddenly. Five points can be

lost in a trice and a whole

range of mannerisms, superstitions and nervous twitches have been developed to stem such flow. Syed rubbed the

left side of the table near the net, ostensibly drying sweaty

hands; his opponent brushed the table vigorously with his

fingers.

Wharton's win falls below title standard

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY WHARTON, the European super-middleweight champion from York, stayed on course for a third attempt at a world championship, but his performance against Vincenzo Nardiello of Italy, on Saturday at Halifax, did not convince his supporters that he could lift such a title.

Wharton was on the floor for the first time in his 13-year career and, by the time that the bout was stopped, in the sixth round, because Nardiello had a badly-cut right eye, he was trailing by three points, having lost the first three rounds, won one and drawn one. Even though the bout was just beginning to turn Wharton's way, the Italian's boxing was so much better than another punch to put Wharton on the floor again was not out of the question.

Wharton's supporters were relieved when the referee called over the doctor to look at the cut and the bout was

stopped, but they were sporting enough to say about their man: "He was lucky."

Wharton, too, was honest enough to say that he boxed badly but believed that his blows were beginning to have their effect and that he would have won in the end. He was probably right. By the fourth round, Nardiello was starting to complain about "infringements" by Wharton. Nardiello even went down on a non-existent punch at the bell for the end of the fifth round, but was told by the referee to get up and go back to his corner.

Wharton said: "I wasn't doing any work. I was just getting caught. I could see the shots coming, but could not get out of the way. It were stupid. If I could give myself a slap without hurting myself, I would. I think I was looking for the big punch. I need a rest."

Micky Duff, Wharton's manager, said that it was a "worrying performance", but

one that showed fighting qualities. "He ran into a bad patch, stood up to it well, gritted his teeth and fought back," Duff said. "There was no panic in the corner when Henry went down. It wasn't as if he didn't know where he was. I knew he would get to him [Nardiello] in the end, given time."

Duff put Wharton's showing down to the fact that Nardiello was a late substitute and Wharton, who had been training to defend against Frederic Seiller, of France, had just four days to prepare for a southpaw.

Certainly, for three rounds, Wharton was not able to get past the extended right hand to land a solid punch.

Nardiello simply kept moving

Ainslie aims for plain sailing in Savannah



Edward Gorman charts the upward course of a young British Olympic contender

It is hard to believe that Ben Ainslie is just 18 — apart, that is, from his refreshing enthusiasm and his shy disposition. His sailing CV reads more like that of a hardened competitor of 30 towards the end of his best years in small boats.

As Sue, his proud mother, suggested, there may never have been an 18-year-old in Great Britain who has participated in nine world championships series.

That is the least of it, though. Ainslie — recently named BT-YJA young sailor of the year — will be the youngest sailor to have represented Britain in the Olympic Games and one of the youngest British Olympians in any sport.

He is the world youth champion in the Laser class — Lasers are highly manoeuvrable 13ft 10in single-sail dinghies — in which he will compete in Savannah in July.

He was world champion twice in the less powerful Laser Radials and also British youth champion.

Late last year, he won an Olympic trial at Weymouth, beating off strong challenges from Hugh Stiles and Mark Littlejohn to book his place as the sole British representative in the Laser class in Savannah.

Today, his challenge for gold begins as he joins the Great Britain team for the pre-Olympic regatta in Miami from January 24 to 28.

Like his more experienced team-mates, Ainslie will use Miami as a chance to test his racing skills against many of the sailors whom he will meet in July.

When Ainslie first thought of having a tilt at the Olympic Games, early last year, some advised him to aim at 2000 and miss Savannah. However, his performance on the water dictated otherwise and he is now seen by his Olympic coaches as a serious medal prospect.

Rod Carr, the team manager, has no doubt. "I would say he's the most determined youth sailor I've seen in nearly 20 years," he said.

"He's the most talented sailor of his generation and, without a doubt, the most promising young Laser sailor in the world."

Like everyone else, Carr is impressed with Ainslie's quiet determination and enthusiasm for the job in hand, presenting him with none of the off-the-water problems that older competitors have. "I don't have the staleness issues with Ben," he said.

However, Ainslie's youth also means inexperience when coming up against the likes of Robert Scheidt, the world champion, from Brazil, and winner of the pre-Olympic series last year. At 23, he has five more years' experience than Ainslie to call on.

The test is, is he capable of beating the more experienced sailors in the Olympics? Carr said. "He has a history of rising to the occasion and the Olympics is a pretty big occasion to rise to. As long as he keeps his head together and doesn't get overawed by the whole thing, he'll be in the frame."

Ainslie's sailing career began in 1985, ironically after his parents' 40-foot yawl was wrecked in the Helford River during a sailing

holiday in Cornwall. Local publicity about the loss of the boat led to an invitation for him to join Restronguet Sailing Club on the Fal estuary, where he started off in Optimists, the classic children's starter dinghies.

His parents then moved to Cornwall from Cheshire and, having started in the Parrots (yachts' class) — Ben quickly skipped the intermediate Barracudas and was soon in the top group, known as the Aces.

At his first nationals championships, in 1988, he finished 41st, but was fast enough on that performance to win the under-12 junior national title. The world championships in the Optimists class followed, his last challenge being in Argentina in 1992 when he was 31st, before he graduated to Laser Radials and the results started to improve dramatically.

He won the national and European youth titles in that class in 1992 and the next year captured the world championship in New Zealand. His parents played a vital role, giving him their full backing all the way, including approving his decision last year to abandon his A levels and



Ainslie, 18, will be the youngest sailor to represent Britain in the Olympic Games in July. Photographs: Peter Bentley

concentrate on his Olympic bid.

Sue and Roddy Ainslie will themselves move to Savannah in April and remain there until the Games, to provide their son with a stable base in the run-up to the competition. His mother is surprised by the extent of her son's dedication.

"He takes it all terribly seriously," she said. "He never goes out and buys a McDonald's and things that he loves, and hardly ever drinks alcohol. He's absolutely dedicated from the moment he gets up to the moment he goes to bed. He's single-minded, but that's the way you have to be."

That singlemindedness displays itself in his thirst for success. "My goal is to win a gold medal," Ainslie said. "If not gold, then any medal would do."



Ainslie in action during the world youth championships in Bermuda last year

Colchester licensed to thrill

Nick Szczepanik is impressed with a 3-2 scoreline at Layer Road

WHEN the FA Cup spotlight is switched off, it seems that the lower reaches of the Endslight Insurance League are out of sight, out of mind, to many spectators. On Saturday, for example, with Ipswich Town, Norwich City and Southend United not playing at home, only 3,552 saw Colchester United consolidate their position among the third division play-off places at a 3-2 victory, but those who stayed away missed a treat.

It was high entertainment that encompassed a number of football's favourite clichés: "end-to-end stuff", "a game of two halves", and even "you must be joking, ref".

Steven Bennett's extravagance in handing out yellow cards meant an early departure for Sean Devine, of Barnet, the game's outstanding attacker, who received two, both for innocuous-looking offences. The referee's award of a penalty to Colchester in the sixth minute, Abrahams taking a theatrical tumble and Bent scoring, also appeared to inspire Colchester.

After 11 minutes, Pardew

that the second period fell a little flat, but both sides still enjoyed their share of chances.

"The type of football you see when you come and watch Barnet," Ray Clemence, their manager, said, describing his side's opening 15 minutes as "kamikaze defending".

"It's difficult at this level to score three or four goals and not concede any," Steve Wignall, the Colchester manager, said. "We must entertain people, but it's heart-attack time for a manager. It could have been 3-3 or 4-4; and last week we were called too defensive!"

Perhaps then, more lovers of attacking football should pay Colchester a visit. "I think so," Wignall said. "It's one of the cheapest entries in the league, and very few games here have been dull. Goals are flying in — at both ends."

With 37 boys' teams entering,

this is as fiercely competitive a cross-country event as one can find in the independent schools' calendar.

However, there was a clear pre-race favourite in Yasin Yusuf, the winner last year in a time that equalled the record for a course that wheels past the celebrated 15th century house, with its memories of the Stourhead Set.

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Kate Edgley gets hooked on Ultimate, the sport that is a cross between American football and netball



Exhilarating and dynamic, men players have the advantage of speed and height



Women players in the 1995 World Cup championships at Street, Somerset: the aim is to encourage more women and schools to take up the game

First things first. Kristine Bater, Canterbury College lecturer, wanted a name for the new Ultimate team that she was setting up: Bob Mamook's Chicken Warriors, Wile E and Friends and The Tip Top Hillbillies were just some of the suggestions on offer.

Ultimate — often wrongly called by the trade name Frisbee — has its origins in the 1960s and team names are just one of the tell-tale signs. The game was invented in 1968 by a group of Columbia High School students in New Jersey who wanted to create an "alternative" sport, which was athletic but not aggressive.

It is a simple, non-contact game with few rules, often described as a hybrid between American football and netball. Points are scored when any player catches the disc in the end zone. There is no referee, only a philosophy to abide by the spirit of the game. Decisions are made by consensus.

We did not come to a decision about the name. Everyone was too busy practising their backhands and sidearms (the forearm throw) from one end of Hartsdown Leisure Centre's gym in Margate to the other. I tentatively joined in and, thanks to Kris's guidance on how to hold the disc — placing of the thumb, forefinger and middle finger are vital — I managed not to make quite the fool of myself that I had feared.

SPORT FOR ALL

When Kris rounded everyone up, a couple of the experienced players could not resist continuing with impressive demonstrations of hammer and knife throws. What looks like a casual but forceful overhead chuck is, in fact, an extremely skillful and accurate pass, executed with a final flick of the wrist.

The result, in the case of the hammer, is the disc sliding through the air upside down. With a release action resembling its literal equivalent, the knife throw spins the disc at 90 degrees to earth, sending it heavenward before it arches down to the target (a teammate) with breathtaking precision.

As the immobility of the name suggests, Ultimate is a great game for show-offs. Its simplicity allows skills to be displayed to the full which kept me rapt at my introduc-

tion to the game — watching the British championships a week earlier.

Twenty-four teams had congregated at Radley College, Oxford, and the ease with which the country's best players controlled and manipulated the disc was awesome. Played outdoors, the seven team members must be extremely fit and fast not only to cover the 130-yard pitch but also to get free. Man-to-man marking is the most common defence. Self regulation did not mean showing obsequious generosity to the opposition, as I half expected, merely that a dispute was resolved by giving the disc back to the previous player.

The dress code — complete with long hair and bandanas — gave a strong whiff of hippydom at odds with traditional sporting culture. Yet this was sport at its most exhilarating and dynamic. Throws of 100 yards, vertical leaps and horizontal dives — or layouts — all kept my adrenalin flowing.

Glancing down the hill to the adjacent golf course, I caught sight of three figures pulling trolleys across the green and wondered how golf had become such a popular spectator sport.

I left the British championships with the bug. I had to have a go. Kris's fledgling team, playing five-a-side indoors, seemed a good starting point. We were divided into

three teams, and took turns to keep the bench warm. Being placed on the same side as the two tallest men turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I did not touch the disc for the first two points.

So it went on. I tore around the court, shaking off my marker, but most of the time to no avail. Realising that the spirit of the game did not equate to chivalry, I abandoned shrinking violet pretensions and started yelling for the disc. It worked: and, as long as I remembered the golden rule of catching the disc with two hands — they even do that at top level when possible — I was no liability. I kept my passes short and unambitious and only once sent a sidearm

pass cack-handedly to the floor. My moments of glory came on two occasions when, miraculously, I found the disc sliding into my grip in the end zone.

As with most sports in which height and speed are fundamental, women are at a disadvantage, according to Liz Bourne, the British Ultimate Federation's (BUF) women's co-ordinator.

Only two women's teams exist at present — London-based Bliss and Twin Peaks from the Midlands — as most women players join mixed teams. Now, Bourne wants to encourage more and has begun women-only training ses-

sions around the country. In the latest issue of *Ultimatum*, the sport's every-so-often magazine, Bourne writes: "It is generally accepted that women playing in women-only teams develop better skills and, most importantly, confidence. Even the more experienced women playing in this country find that, when playing with a mixed team, their skills are not used to their full potential."

When Bourne began playing Ultimate, six years ago, there were only a handful of other women players in the country, but now she believes that there are enough to form four or five more teams.

While Bourne is keen to break the mixed mould, Sam

Neilson, the BUF national director, wants to expand Ultimate beyond its traditional university base. He is bantering to gain Sports Council recognition and funding for the game so that he can start a schools development programme.

"We want to open doors so that other people can play, particularly children," Neilson said. "It's a very good game for schools because it encourages responsibility on the sports field. In most sports, you can think that if the referee doesn't see something, it's OK. Not in Ultimate."

If you are fit and athletic, the chances are you would enjoy playing Ultimate, and once you have tried, the lure to learn to throw well is strong.

FACTBOX

For more information about Ultimate, contact: British Ultimate Federation, PO Box 1, Swan House, Leicester, LE9 5ZW. BUF national director Sam Neilson: 01926 362276; e-mail: sera@est.warwick.ac.uk. *Ultimatum* is available from Paul Hurt 0181-884 2000. e-mail: Ultimatumline.co.uk

The five-a-side women's indoor British championships take place at Aston University in Birmingham on January 27 and 28. Women players from mixed teams will form most of the contestants, but new players are being invited to take part.

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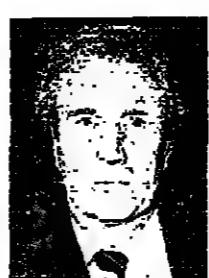
THE MAZDA 323

**IS BETTER LOOKING
THAN THE VW GOLF**

(mazda) > (the rest)

ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART
In Oxford, sculptor Richard Wentworth is given the run of the Christ Church Picture Gallery
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ MUSIC
Sir Colin Davis launches his LSO Bruckner and Mozart series at the Barbican
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA
Michael Tippett's masterly *A Midsummer Marriage* receives a new production at Covent Garden
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE
Wilde at heart: Martin Shaw stars in *An Ideal Husband* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

THEATRE: Stagings for John Betjeman and Jean Rhys

BOTH the title and the misspelling on the front page of the King's Head programme are calculated to arouse your curiosity. "Betjemania," we read, "a musical revue based on the writings of Sir John Betjeman."

Is it possible that the poet we always called John Betjeman had more than a single personality, and that one of these Betjemans knew how to rave and rage? Was there a Betjemaniac with an eye that, in fine frenzy rolling, glanced from heaven to earth and earth to heaven, like the wild bard Theseus evoked in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

Not on the evidence of the amiable, harmless four-person show David Bedford has stitched together from Betjeman's verse and, occasionally, prose. It would make as much sense to call a reading of George Herbert's religious poetry Herbohysterics. What excitement can be extracted from gymkhana, Victorian pub and churches, firelight shining on green linoleum, thatched cottages, Wits and Tunbridge Wells Central Station, is duly extracted here. It does not exactly raise the roof or, mostly, the audience's spirits.

Mark you, Betjeman's mildly satiric wit is well enough suited to what used to be called intimate revue. His simple, regular rhythms and rhymes beg to be put to music, and have been brightly enough set by John Gould.

Bard of the Bath teashop

Betjemania
King's Head

Some numbers — *Varsity Student's Rag* or the parody hymn "we spray the fields and scatter the poison on the land" — come with tunes more or less in place already. They tend also to make fun of anything even slightly nou-



Cozy cast: Simon Butteriss and Mary Lincoln

veau or vulgar: which is very much the spirit of revue as it rather snobbishly was 40 or 50 years ago.

There have been times — half-microwaved on an airless train, for instance, while all around baby-faced tycoons bark into mobile phones — when I too have shared Betjeman's nostalgic patriotism. Who hasn't? But all that is wincing at cars and PRCs and ("come friendly bombs and fall on Slough") suburban city centres had the paradoxical effect of half-reconciling me to the modern world. Is being cosily stuck in the 1940s with one's teddy and one's memories of matron at prep school really so much more enticing than driving fast down the M1 to a G&T in a fake-Georgian roadhouse?

Towards the end, when homosexuality and then death come into the poetic equation, we get a glimpse of a harsher, deeper Betjeman; but Mary Lincoln, Caroline Fitzgerald, Simon Butteriss and Nicholas Caunter do not make him resonate very loudly. Richard Syms's cast has clearly been chosen for its pleasing warmth, deft charm and other such lower-case virtues — and why not? That is what the bard of the Bath teashop, the vilifier of peroxide hair and speedboats called Mandy Jane, would seem to require. That is what he deserves.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

In 1978, NatWest refused to lend a meagre £60 to a postgraduate student with a dream of starting up a poetry publishing company called Bloodaxe. The bank manager said something about it being too speculative a venture.

Undeterred, the student found the money elsewhere. He also changed bank. In the 1990s, Bloodaxe has a turnover of £500,000 and publishes an extraordinary pace: one book each week.

Two volumes from the house that Neil Astley built are up for the T.S. Eliot Prize, announced tonight. Since the award's founding in 1994 — on the fortieth anniversary of the Poetry Book Society, which Eliot was involved in founding — it has already established itself as a major event in the poetry calendar. For prizes, as the publishing world knows, raise the profile of poetry: they improve sales no end.

Poetry needs all the support it can get at a time when leading publishing houses are slimming down or abandoning poetry lists. Sinclair-Stevenson, for example, published its final collection last November.

Sandy Grant, Sinclair-Stevenson's chief executive, describes himself as a poetry lover — "some of my best friends are poets," he jokes — and explains that most were selling under 500 copies, and that they would not contemplate fiction that was going to sell fewer than 3,000. The company felt that its expertise and contacts lay elsewhere in the high culture area.

Chato & Windus has dispensed with a formal list, and intends to publish the occasional collection that impresses its editors. Jonathan Burnham, Chato's publishing director, notes that sales of poetry have dwindled over the past five years.

Yet, he adds, the conundrum is that there are more good poets now than there have been for many years, and, to judge by the success of National Poetry Day or of Poems on the Underground, a market for poetry must clearly exist.

Indeed, the Arts Council felt the picture was so confusing it has commissioned a survey of the public's attitude towards poetry. Alastair Niven, its head of literature, says that the state of poetry needed clarifying: stories abounded of falling sales as publishers, libraries and even teachers lost interest, while at the same time thousands were jamming the BBC

Tonight's T.S. Eliot Prize may bring just reward to a pioneering poetry publisher. Dalya Alberge reports



NEIL ASTLEY (left) and SIMON THIRSK, directors of the non-profit-making Bloodaxe

switchboard last October to vote for their favourite poem. The survey, he says, reflects the nation's deep-rooted interest in poetry.

While Faber, Penguin and Oxford University Press maintain their commitment to poetry, Astley sees the demise of poetry within other leading houses as Bloodaxe's gain. The more the big boys axe their lists, the more Bloodaxe sells.

Astley's own survey showed

that readers come from across the board because his company's poetry has such a range: from the political work of Osip Mandelstam, the Russian master who died in a labour camp in 1938, to the American Tess Gallagher and her lyric poems about kisses to be published later this month to coincide with Valentine's Day.

Astley says that it was the dreariness of poetry in the 1970s that inspired him to set

up Bloodaxe, (named after the vicious Viking Erik Bloodaxe, who became King of Northumbria in 948). "We like to think," the company says, "that Erik has helped us in the cut and thrust of book marketing, traditionally a bloody battlefield for non-profit-making literary publishers."

Poetry books were dull, containing "academic blurb that even readers of poetry couldn't understand," Astley recalls. Poetry needed a shake-

up: "It was seen as very intellectual, Oxbridge, Hampstead-based, and cliquey."

Even relatively recently, he observes, eight out of 12 poets within a single publishing house were connected with Magdalen College, Oxford: an incoming editor, noting that they were all male, likened himself to the cox of an Oxford boat-team. So by operating from a warehouse in the North East — being Newcastle Central Station — Bloodaxe is making a definite statement.

For the first four years Astley was on his own, working 16 hours a day seven days a week, and making ends meet with odd jobs in bookshops.

■ Poetry needed a shake-up — it was seen as cliquey

and arts administration. By 1982, to qualify for a grant, he became a limited company and took on another director, Simon Thirsk, with whom he had been at Newcastle University. It is a labour of love: there are no profits. Their entire income is ploughed back into the company, paying for a staff of nine.

Government subsidy — £70,000 from Northern Arts — enables Bloodaxe to take risks and to keep books in print even when they are selling in dribs and drabs, some as few as 300. However, sales of volumes such as *No, I'm No Afraid* by Irina Ratushinskaya, whose poetry was smuggled out of the country in bars of soap, have topped 25,000. When Ratushinskaya was finally released, she came to Newcastle for a reading. It was an emotional time, Thirsk recalls. "It shows the power of poetry."

But could we ever match the Russians' enthusiasm for poetry, with their ability to reach a mass audience? Poetry readings over there can fill stadiums the size of Wembley. Hard to imagine that ever happening here. Yet, as Thirsk points out: "Think of what the Three Tenors have done for music." He has a point. Only a few years ago, who would have imagined that opera could fill Wembley's terraces?

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■ FILM

Alcohol and vice do mix, at least in Mike Figgis's powerful new *Leaving Las Vegas*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

Iceland's hottest property, the wild and wacky Björk, plays Sheffield Arena
GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ BOOKS

Plots and visions among Catholic villagers: Cristina Odone unveils her first novel, *The Shrine*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



■ DANCE
Beautiful dreamer: Viviana Durante takes the lead in the Royal Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty*
OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

South African jazzman Hugh Masekela gives Nigel Williamson some bad news

Free, and still chained

Hugh Masekela, perhaps South Africa's finest jazz musician, arrives in London this week for a rare concert, bearing a depressing message about his native land. "The only people who have been liberated are the whites," he says. "They are no longer pariahs." He adds sadly: "The lives of our people haven't changed. They voted, but if anything they are worse off than before."

The 59-year-old trumpeter, whose hits such as *Grazing in the Grass* made him an international name during 30 years in exile, returned to South Africa five years ago and has just recorded his first album in the country in which he was born.

Masekela, who has a proud record of supporting young black musicians in the townships, says South African music remains in the doldrums. There is a lot of exciting new talent around — including Busi Mhlongo, who will be singing with Masekela, and has one of the most thrilling voices to have come out of South Africa since Miriam Makeba, Masekela's former wife.

The South African music industry is still owned by whites," Masekela says. "The club scene is virtually non-existent. People are afraid to go out because of the violence. We are working on revival, on showing off our talent. But it is like we are still a secret."

He is critical of the white liberals around the world who championed the anti-apartheid struggle but then, he feels, dropped South Africa and moved on to causes new. "They lost interest in us," he says. "They don't see that there is no investment in the townships, that the whites still own everything. It is not what the media euphoria has portrayed it to be."

Masekela has always believed that his politics and his music were inextricably linked, and will waste no opportunity to drive his message.



"Only South African whites have been liberated," says Hugh Masekela, in London for a one-off Festival Hall gig

age home on his brief visit. Nevertheless, the veteran jazzman whose repertoire encompasses almost every facet of black music from hard bop to jazz ballads to infectious township beats, promises a celebratory evening with his six-piece band.

The Festival Hall concert comes as the culmination of A/jazz '95, a five-month festival of African art which, with the exception of the outstanding exhibition at the Royal Academy, has had a disappointingly low profile. Masekela should prove a fitting climax.

"Despite the problems, Masekela has always believed that his politics and his music were inextricably linked, and will waste no opportunity to drive his message.

South Africans are the most joyous people I know," he says. "And the music reflects that."

London has a special place in Masekela's affections. "It was where I came when I left South Africa. Johnny Dankworth and Yehudi Menuhin helped me leave and come to Britain, together with Bishop Trevor Huddleston. I have loved the place ever since."

His first trumpet was a gift from Huddleston. The story goes that the bishop paid the boy Masekela a visit when he was sick and asked: "What would make you better?" Masekela had just played

truant to watch the film *Young Man With a Horn*, about the legendary Bix Beiderbecke. He had only one answer and the bishop bought him his first trumpet for £15. Later Huddleston, after his own expulsion from South Africa, persuaded Louis Armstrong to donate an instrument to the rising star back in Johannesburg.

The highlight of any Masekela set remains *Silimela*, an extended and deeply moving piece about the "coal train" that carried black miners hundreds of miles away from their families to work in appalling conditions under-

ground. Many never returned. "There would be a riot if I didn't play that," he says. "I walk down the street and people lean out of their car windows and imitate the sound of the train from the song. I am proud of that."

Astonishingly, Sony has no plans at present to release *Notes of Life*, Masekela's new South African-recorded album, in Britain. The sort of reception a packed Festival Hall promises will hopefully be enough to change corporate minds.

• Hugh Masekela plays the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) on Friday

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| Sec'd | Company | Price | Wk. | Yld | PE |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|-----|------|----|
| BANKS | | | | | |
| 877200 BNP Paribas | 100 | 1.15 | 47 | 1.15 | |
| 877200 BNP Paribas | 200 | 1.15 | 32 | 1.15 | |
| 877200 BNP Paribas | 250 | 1.15 | 29 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 100 | 1.15 | 52 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 200 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 250 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 300 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 350 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 400 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 450 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 500 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 550 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 600 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 650 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 700 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 750 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 800 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 850 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 900 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 950 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1000 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1050 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1100 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1150 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1200 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1250 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1300 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
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| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1800 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1850 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1900 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 1950 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 2000 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 2050 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 2100 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
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| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 6050 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
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| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 6250 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 6300 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 6350 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| 124200 Bank of Scotland | 6400 | 1.15 | 27 | 1.15 | |
| | | | | | |

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Intelek, Tomkins. Finals: Coda Group, PWS Holdings, Second Consolidation Trust. Economic statistics: Producer prices (December).

TOMORROW

Interims: Debenham Tewson & Chinooks, Farepak, Remy Cointreau. Finals: Alexander Holdings, Citicorp, Gresham Telecomputing, Intel, Micron Holdings, Quality Care Homes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Apple Computer (Q1), Budgens, Dudley Jenkins Group, Nobe Group, Photo-Me International, Stanley Leisure, UK Land.

Finals: Ameritech, Bankamerica, First Leisure, Irish Continental.

Economic statistics: Monetary monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, PSBR (December), unemployment (December), average earnings (November).

THURSDAY

Interims: Heitor Holdings, Magnum Power, McKay Securities, William Ranson, Tottenham Hotspur, Vega Group.

Finals: Aberforth Smaller Companies, Bankers Trust New York Corp., Brooke Tool Engineering, Brunner IT, Greenwich Resources, Hill & Smith, Microsoft, Neotronics Technology, Premier Land, St David's IT. Economic statistics: Retail prices (December), retail sales (December), British Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey, Bundesbank council meeting.

FRIDAY

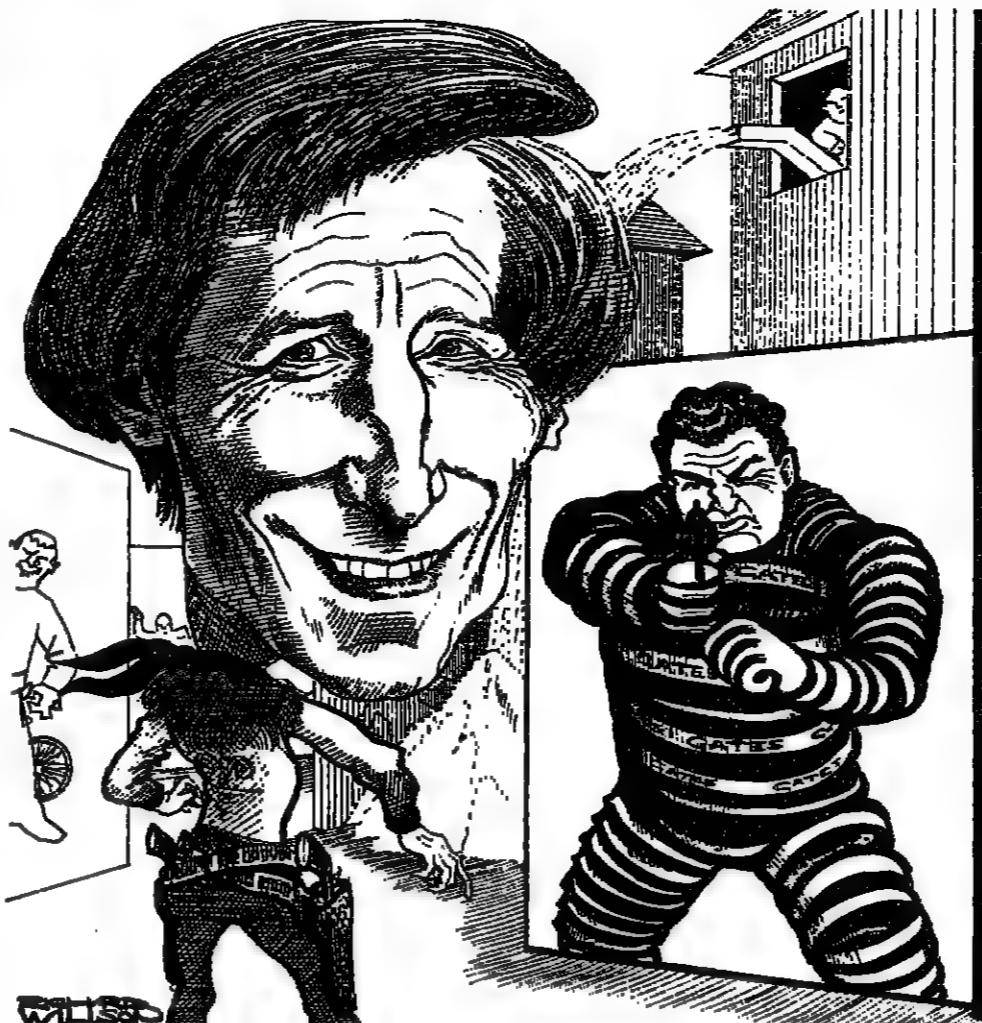
Interims: Abtrust Lloyd's Insurance Trust, British Bloodstock Agency, Cantors, Mitie Group, Park Food Group.

Finals: None scheduled. Economic statistics: Motor vehicle production (December).

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Tomkins keeps Gates in its sights



Greg Hutchings is expected to reveal where Tomkins stands in its negotiations with Gates

TOMKINS: The diversified conglomerate, whose empire spans Ranks Hovis McDougall milling and baking to Smith & Wesson handguns, is expected to accompany a solid rise in first-half profits with upbeat news on prospects when it reports today. Apart from current trading and prospects, Greg Hutchings, the chairman, will be pressed to provide further details on the group's proposed acquisition of Gates Rubber, the private American motor components group whose products include transmission belts and hoses.

The City still awaits specific financial details concerning the deal, which is rumoured to be worth more than \$1 billion, excluding \$240 million of debt, but could swell to \$1.5 billion.

The company said on Friday that it had nearly completed the detailed contract negotiation on its purchase of Gates, although a couple of technical issues, unrelated to the business, were said to be outstanding.

Gates and Tomkins have been discussing final terms of the deal since mid-December and said a month ago that they expected contracts to be signed by the year end.

Louise Hough at SBC Warburg is looking for first-half pre-tax profits to advance to £128 million (£14.5 million), with an improved interim dividend of 2.75p (2.43p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £120 million to £130 million.

On the trading front, analysts will be looking to see how the RHM business is performing, given that bread prices are showing signs of recovery. They say fears have been overdone, with the much-trumpeted supermarket bread price wars not having fed through to the producers, while milling and baking has actually seen some price rises.

Analysts will also be waiting to see whether Tomkins has suffered any slowdown in growth in the United States. In spite of adverse movements in the dollar exchange rate, the Smith & Wesson handguns business is thought to be doing well worldwide, with any noises about gun control in America merely fuel-

ling sales in the US market. Elsewhere, items such as snow blowers will have benefited from the recent freeze that gripped the East Coast of America. But lawnmowers and bicycles are still price competitive, with the latter possibly seeing greater competition from China.

With Tomkins's profits skewed at the second half of this year, which runs to April 30, analysts expect the group to achieve full-year pre-tax profits of between £330 million and £353 million, compared with £303 million last time.

FIRST LEISURE: The bingo, pin-ball, bowling and discos group is expected to provide news of more buoyant trading when it reports full-year figures on Wednesday, in spite of the adverse effects of the hot summer weather on some of its indoor attractions.

After a recent comprehensive, and largely positive, trading update in November, analysts at NatWest Securities expect final pre-tax profits to advance to £39.2 million (£36.1 million). A dividend of 7.7p (7.02p) is predicted.

Dancing is expected to see like-for-like sales growth of about 7 per cent. with growth in admissions and spend-per-head. Sports should also advance, boosted as the Bracknell health and fitness club trades at full capacity.

The group's bingo division will benefit from the opening of seven new clubs during the year, but competition from the National Lottery is set to have depressed trading at the older bingo clubs, where sales are likely to have fallen by about 9 per cent.

BUDGENS: The series of Christmas trading updates from retailing groups continues on

Wednesday, when the supermarket chain unveils its interim results.

After years of suffering cut-price competition, Budgens should take another step on the road to recovery. In September, it revealed a return to sales growth, and this should enable first-half pre-tax profits to climb to about £4 million (£1.8 million), according to Kleinwort Benson. A maintained interim dividend of 6.3p is expected.

STANLEY LEISURE: The bookmaker and casino operator should be able to partly offset the adverse effects of competition from the National Lottery and scratchcards with better news from its casinos.

UBS expects Stanley Leisure's interim pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to show a drop to about £0.5 million (£1.7 million), though the dividend is predicted to rise to 2.2p (2p).

Analysts say the key to long-term prospects is how the racing business is faring after the hot summer reduced the size of fields. The National Lottery's impact on betting shops and how much cash customers spent.

PHOTO-ME: Wednesday's first-half profit from Photo-Me International, the photo booth maker and operator, which derives the bulk of its earnings overseas, are expected to show a modest rise. The company, which also runs copiers, express print services and automatic film processing systems, may suffer from the short-term effects of depreciation charges on its equipment. Kleinwort Benson has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £11 million, up from £10 million.

MITIE GROUP: The building maintenance company, which supplies services such as painting and decorating to property owners and occupiers, rounds off the week on Friday with what is expected to be another solid set of interim results. Mitie's profit margins are thought to have improved over recent months, which should be reflected in first-half profits that comfortably top last time's £1.85 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus on key prices figures

A bumper crop of economic statistics surrounds Wednesday's monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

There are two key sets of prices figures. Today, producer prices are published for December. The consensus forecast, according to MMS International, is for the annual rate of input price inflation to fall to 5.9 per cent. from 6.2 per cent. in November, and for output price inflation to edge down to 4.1 per cent. from 4.3 per cent.

On Thursday, it is expected that figures for headline retail prices inflation will show a drop to 3 per cent. from 3.1 per cent. in November. Underlying inflation is forecast to have edged down to 2.8 per cent. from 2.9 per cent. The RPIY measure, excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is expected to be unchanged at 2.4 per cent.

Thursday also sees December retail sales figures, which, based on anecdotal sales and survey evidence, are expected to confirm a healthy Christmas shopping season. The MMS consensus forecast is for a rise in volumes of 0.7 per cent. pushing up year-on-year growth in sales to 1.5 per cent. from 1.1 per cent. in November.

On Wednesday, December's public sector borrowing requirement is published, with the market expecting a figure of about £550 million after November's large borrowing requirement of £4.7 billion. On the same day, labour market statistics are released for December. Unemployment is expected to have fallen by about 10,000 after a fall of 20,000 in November. Average earnings annual growth is predicted to have edged up to 3.5 per cent. from 3.25 per cent.

On Thursday, the Bank of France holds its council meeting and its annual press conference on monetary policy for 1996, while the Bundesbank's policy-making council meets in Frankfurt. On Saturday, finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrialised countries meet in Paris.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy British Aerospace, Ashbourne. Sell Hodder Headline. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy GEC, Crown Products, Sipa Resources. **Independent on Sunday:** Buy National Grid, Fuller Smith & Turner. **Observer:** Buy Matthew Clark. **The Mail on Sunday:** Buy Mirror Group, Reunion Mining.



BUY ONE FULL PRICE TICKET AND GET ANOTHER FOR THE PRICE OF YOUR FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Theatre tickets for only 30p

Today *The Times* brings you the second part of the selection of theatres around the country offering you the chance to take a friend to the theatre for just 30p, the price of Britain's leading quality daily newspaper. There are more than 140 shows at more than 60 theatres throughout the country to choose from.

Musicals feature heavily in the list of shows available, including *Buddy* in Llandudno, *Blood Brothers* in York and *Five Guys Named Moe* in Nottingham. Clarke Peters, who created *Five Guys Named Moe*, can be seen in person in his latest show *Unforgettable — The Nat King Cole Story* in Edinburgh, Inverness and Woking. Other stars in our offer include Adam Faith in Darlington, Tony Slattery in Sheffield and Peter Davison in Bradford and Southend.

Old Time Music Hall retains its

popularity and there's no better place to enjoy a night at the music hall than the City Varieties Theatre in Leeds, home of the BBC's *The Good Old Days* for over 20 years, where Linda Nolan leads the cast. You can also enjoy Music Hall in Darlington where Danny La Rue tops the bill.

Wherever your taste in theatre, from Shakespeare to popular contemporary writers, you are guaranteed a great evening.

To take advantage of our offer reserve your tickets by telephone directly with your chosen theatre and collect five of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and attach them to the voucher below. When you purchase one ticket at the listed price you will receive a second of equal value for 30p.

A full list of participating theatres in London and the south of England appeared on Saturday.

ALBANY THEATRE

BIRMINGHAM

BLACKPOOL

BRADFORD

BUXTON

CHESTER

CINEMA

COVENTRY

DARLINGTON

DEAN

EDINBURGH

ELSTREE

ENGLAND

EXETER

GLASGOW

GLoucester

GLoucester

GOALS

GRANADA

GUERNSEY

HARROGATE

British Coal to sell over 1,000 acres in Wales

By MARTIN BARROW

MORE than 1,000 acres of agricultural land and woodland, properties and farm buildings in Wales will be offered for sale today in the privatisation of British Coal's property assets.

The property is in the Wrexham, Ewloe and Buckley areas of North Wales and the sale offers an opportunity to purchase agricultural land in a part of the country where farms and land traditionally remain under family ownership for generations.

Carter Jonas, the property agent, is acting on behalf of British Coal. The assets are being offered for sale by private treaty as a whole, in ten separate lots, or in combinations of lots for which offers must be submitted by March 11.

A package of land at Rhosyfelin, near Wrexham, includes a section of the ancient monument of Offa's Dyke, a series of earthworks running from near the mouth of the Wye to near the mouth of the Dee, dividing England from Wales. It was built between the years 757 and 796 by Offa, the king of Mercia, to mark the frontier established by his wars with the Welsh.

David Wern, British Coal's head of property, said: "The North Wales package represents the biggest single property portfolio to be offered for sale in the region for many years. It embraces an area where quality agricultural land has traditionally attracted

a premium because of its rare availability. The sale has been launched during a period of consistently rising agricultural land values, he said.

Most of the land on offer is currently let on farming business tenancies and includes the Plas Bellin estate, overlooking the Dee Estuary, near Northop, which spans more than 300 acres of agricultural land and 18 acres of woodland.

British Coal has completed



Offa's Dyke, the ancient monument, a section of which is included in one package of land

UK factories lag behind rivals

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S competitive performance still lags well behind the USA's, a study of international productivity suggests today. The Government is planning to publish a new report on Britain's competitiveness later this year. In spite of the importance placed on the issue by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and improvements in the performance of some British companies, Whitehall officials acknowledge that the UK still has a "long tail" of

underperforming companies that lag behind a group of world-class firms. Looking at engineering plants in Britain, the Netherlands and the US, a new study published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research finds that average US labour productivity levels are some 25 per cent higher than in their Dutch counterparts and as much as two-thirds higher than in British plants.

Much of the USA's produc-

tivity advantage stems from greater economies of scale. US plants work with much larger average production batch sizes and suffer from less machinery downtime when production shifts change. Larger batch sizes also allow for higher machine-manning levels and greater use of automated production equipment. The study also notes that higher US productivity is achieved with comparatively lower skill levels in America than in Europe.

Much of the USA's produc-

Market fails to reflect progress in economy

In 1996, as ever, gilts will provide a bit of a conundrum for investors, be they domestic or international. The short-term outlook is fairly positive: we expect a steady decline in interest rates and yields across the whole of the maturity spectrum, leaving the shape of the curve basically unaltered.

From the perspective of the first quarter, Daiwa's projections highlight the long end as the preferred maturity on the returns basis.

Projecting beyond that is fraught with risks, dependent, as it is on the Tories' time in power and the market's response to what seems sure to be a change of government, be it this year or next. We will resist the political debate and its consequences for the market, confining comment to the likely risk premium on the worst fears of a Labour government.

One suspects that it is not inacceivable for ten-year gilt spreads over Bunds to widen out to 200bps, or even 225bps, on nervousness.

However, let us not forget that the change to the Democra-

ts in the US led to a fall in Treasury yields, not a rise.

But why should gilts pro-

vide a conundrum? Because the market is neither a true high yield nor is it quite able to match the French market, in terms of the yield differential over Bunds.

A steady economic cycle should also prevent volatility in retail price-setting. So, underlying inflation will re-

main comfortable. Not too much stress should be put on the underlying inflation rate being 2.8 per cent, and not 2.5. The point is that in the past two years inflation has been and over the next two or three years will continue to be, stable in a 2 to 3.5 per cent range, matching "hard-

core" European economies.

The fiscal position is also favourable, not only in comparison with markets enjoying a narrower risk premium over Bunds, but even some "hard-core" markets. The last Budget should have finally convinced doubters that transparency of monetary policy does constrain politically inspired tax cuts and spending increases. Even if it is assumed that there is a slight overshoot on the deficit, it will still be on a downward trajectory to 2 per cent, with a better debt/GDP ratio than that enjoyed by most European bond markets.

Although there may well need to be fundamental re-evaluation of the benefits system, it is not as necessary as in France to cut the budget deficit. Also, the UK's pension system does not face the same long-term problems as many countries.

The conundrum for gilts: steady growth, good inflation, better fiscal backdrop than many in Europe and policy transparency with stop/go economic cycles a thing of the past — surely this is the recipe for spreads over Germany to fall to Danish or even French levels. Maybe what is needed to solve the conundrum is a currency level seen by international investors as either obviously cheap or in an era of stability, rather than on a continuing downward spiral. A mark rate of 2.05 could be the right value. But while we wait for the market to correctly price the UK risk premium, it is back to political intrigue and a range of 140bps to 225bps over Germany this year.

KATY PETERS AND SANJAY JOSHI
Daiwa Europe

Inflation over the next two or three years will continue to be stable

SkyePharma gets off to a flying start

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SKYEPHARMA, run by Ian Gowrie-Smith, founder and former head of Medeva, dominated last week's trading on the Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies (Philip Pangalos writes).

The company was formed after a reverse takeover by

ed to use the company as a vehicle to make acquisitions in the pharmaceutical market.

Elsewhere, Card Clear, the credit card fraud protection company, was in demand after signing a deal to install its Hot Card Broadcast system in Mobil's petrol retail outlets throughout the UK.

| ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|
| Mid cap (million) | Company | Price (pence) | Wkly % [†] | Yr % | PE | Div |
| 15.50 | AMCO Corp | 109 | ... | 5.2 | 12.0 | |
| 0.40 | Arculus Recruit | 18 | ... | 5.6 | 10.4 | |
| 18.40 | A de Gruchy | 125 | + | 1 | ... | |
| 7.62 | Arden Capital | 13 | + | 1 | ... | |
| 1.80 | Albemarle & Bd | 23 | + | 3 | ... | |
| 12.80 | Alpha Unikron | 405 | ... | 5.4 | 12.2 | |
| 5.24 | Ann St Crv | 805 | ... | 8.0 | ... | |
| 71.00 | Antonov | 101 | - | 12 | ... | |
| 11.70 | Architects Trust | 73 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4.37 | Arch. Higgs | 50 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4.03 | Arcaids | 145 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 2.00 | Armada Leis | 70 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4.96 | Arbrance Higgs | 50 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 36.80 | Arbrook | 315 | + | 10 | 2.5 | 31.5 |
| 2.10 | Arco Hgs | 118 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 1.00 | Arco Inter Shs | 110 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 3.66 | Arde Invrs | 95 | ... | 7.8 | ... | |
| 8.52 | Ardenwall Tsl | 62 | ... | 9.1 | ... | |
| 13.10 | Arclab Partners | 31 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 12.30 | Com de Pz Fin | 510 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 7.99 | Concierge Tsl | 40 | ... | 2.5 | 17.1 | ... |
| 11.20 | Confor. Gdns | 63 | ... | 2.4 | 13.0 | ... |
| 3.21 | Confor. Hsgs | 73 | ... | 9.1 | ... | |
| 26.50 | Crest Hll | 102 | - | 5 | ... | |
| 14.00 | Crown Products | 52 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 12.40 | DBS Management | 183 | + | 23 | 4.1 | 7.4 |
| 5.58 | Dartwell Inv | 36 | ... | 2.8 | 14.0 | ... |
| 3.62 | Dawn Glass | 86 | ... | 5.5 | 9.4 | ... |
| 48.00 | Dawson Hggs | 1010 | - | 140 | 3.8 | 64.3 |
| 3.21 | Deutsche Invrs | 73 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| 12.70 | Draize | 111 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 121.50 | Electrophoresis Int | 188 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 5.52 | Euro Sales Fn | 125 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 2.12 | Fair Pools | 340 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 2.20 | Farm Fresh | 135 | - | 15 | ... | |
| 4.12 | Floral Sl | 263 | + | 10 | 0.5 | 58.7 |
| 4.52 | Forresters | 192 | + | 2 | ... | |
| 15.10 | Forsman | 143 | + | 15 | 1.7 | 13.6 |
| 4.65 | Futting Homes | 93 | ... | 32 | 5.0 | ... |
| 26.20 | Gander Hggs | 16 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 2.40 | Gardens | 145 | ... | 34 | 1.1 | 13.1 |
| 1.12 | Heaton | 41 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 59.00 | Hippo Dev Inc | 150 | ... | 0.3 | ... | |
| 11.20 | Indgt Radio | 112 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 14.70 | Inter Workings | 88 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 21.10 | Int'l Greetings | 500 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 3.70 | Jennings Bros | 293 | + | 8 | 2.8 | 26.5 |
| 43.50 | JS Biomed | 115 | - | 6 | ... | |
| 25.50 | Lancashire Enterprises | 140 | + | 2 | 3.6 | ... |
| 14.20 | Lanrance | 235 | + | 2 | 0.8 | ... |
| 53.70 | Levate Group | 270 | ... | 12 | 14.0 | ... |
| 46.40 | Levies Sirs | 280 | - | 12 | 6.9 | 27.4 |

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BEAUMA'S
NOTICE OF ASSEMBLY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL COURT OF COVER AND CHARGE will be held at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3R 8LP on 31 January 1996 to receive the Annual Report of the Company and to elect Directors for the ensuing year and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Notice is also given that COLBERT'S COURT OF COVER AND CHARGE will be held at 229 Strand on 26th January 1996.

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Five years on, ex-President reveals Gulf War anxieties

Bush feared Iraqi troops would withdraw too soon

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE BUSH, the former American President, admits this week that he was immensely relieved President Saddam Hussein did not withdraw his troops voluntarily from Kuwait before the outbreak of the Gulf War in January 1991.

With the build-up of half a million American troops and hundreds of bombers and fighter planes in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, a last-minute withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers would have been "the worst of all possible worlds", Mr Bush says.

Disclosures by the former President about his anxieties during the Gulf War come on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the start of the American-led coalition air campaign against Iraq on the night of January 16-17. Interviewed by Sir David Frost, in a programme to be screened in America tomorrow, Mr Bush says: "If he'd pulled out totally from Kuwait and left his forces along the border, we would have been in a terrible bind." He says the US and its coalition partners would have had to keep a large force in Kuwait, but American public and congressional support would have evaporated.

He tells Sir David in the interview, recorded on December 12: "I worried that at the last minute he [Saddam] would pull out of there. We

gave peace a chance. We tried to get him to do that. But as you look back on it now, that would have been the worst of all possible worlds."

Last week, Baroness Thatcher criticised Western political leaders for failing to force Saddam to accept formal surrender when the war came to an end. Interviewed for a four-part BBC documentary on the war, she said that failure had enabled the Iraqi leader to

All hell would have broken loose if the Israelis had been allowed to retaliate for the Scud attacks

remain in power. Mr Bush admits in his television interview that he regretted not ending the war with a "clean" surrender. He says, however, that he has no such regrets about ending the coalition's ground campaign on February 28, 1991, four days after it had been launched, because of the fear of rising casualties among the fleeing Iraqi forces.

He says the mission to end Iraqi aggression had been accomplished. The US military left confident that the Iraqi war machine was sufficiently damaged, and the coalition would have been split by a decision to chase the Republican Guards to Bagh-

dad. "There's a moral imperative here, and I don't think the United States, nor France, measure the extent of their victory by an increased body count," he says.

Mr Bush also discloses how he stopped the Israelis from entering the war after Iraq fired Scud ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv. The Israelis approached the United States because they wanted to overfly

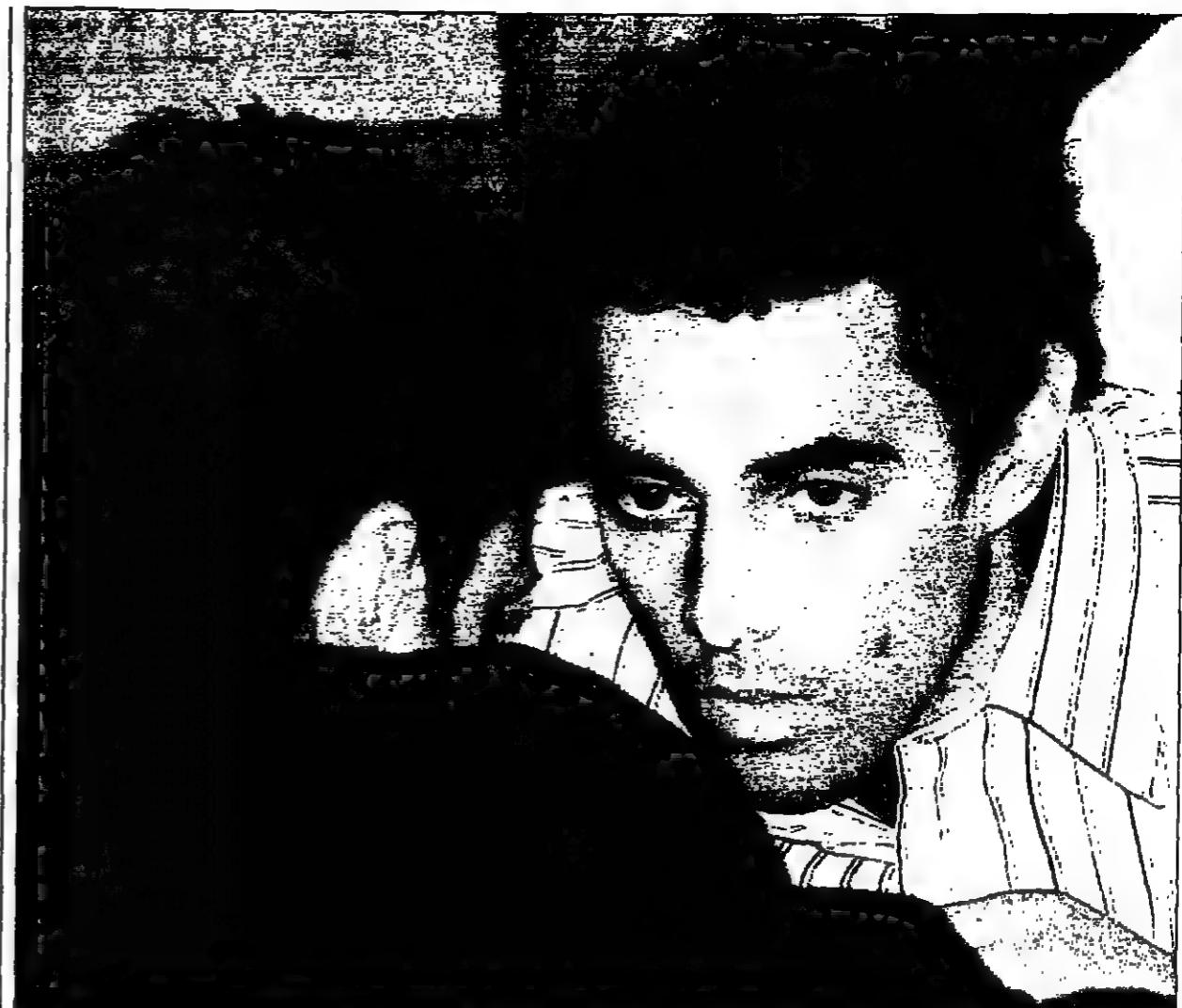
aside that premise that, if somebody hits them, they're going to hit them back."

Last night, in the third part of the BBC's documentary, *The Gulf War*, General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, disclosed that there was a plan to bomb Iraq's dams on the Tigris and Euphrates if Saddam had attacked with chemical and biological weapons. General Powell said this would have caused enormous destruction and loss of life.

However, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, had been warned in a meeting with James Baker, then the US Secretary of State, that the Americans would exact a terrible price if chemical weapons were used. The Iraqis believed this meant America would retaliate with nuclear weapons, and the threat had the desired effect.

Mr Bush says this week that he never seriously contemplated using nuclear weapons.

Contract contest: Britain and France are in close competition to sell missiles for Kuwait's French-made patrol boats. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was in Kuwait at the weekend to try to persuade the emir to buy British Aerospace's Sea Skua missiles to equip eight P27 boats. The French are trying to sell MM38 missiles produced by Aerospatiale.



Yigal Amir, right, Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, consults a lawyer, Mordechai Ofri, in court in Tel Aviv yesterday

Politician 'sought blessing for Rabin's killing'

Tel Aviv: A prominent Israeli politician tried to help Yitzhak Rabin's assassin to get rabbinical approval for the murder, a defence lawyer claimed yesterday. Moshe Meron made his accusation at a court hearing for Yigal Amir, his brother Hagai, and a third alleged conspirator, Dror Adani. Yigal Amir's trial for the

murder of the Israeli Prime Minister is due to start on January 23. Hagai Amir and Mr Adani are charged with conspiring with Yigal Amir to kill Rabin and attack Palestinians. Their trial was adjourned until April 17. Mr Meron, who represents Hagai Amir, refused to name the politician. Yigal Amir said after the

killing at a November 4 peace rally that it was justified by Jewish law. (AP)

Gaza City: Palestinian police have captured members of the radical Abu Nidal group who were preparing an assassination and bombing campaign against the autonomous territories, officials said yesterday. (AFP)



Allied soldiers guarding Iraqi prisoners during the Gulf War five years ago

Saddam's defiant survival frustrates regretful West

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE anniversary this week of the start of the Gulf War provides a salutary reminder that five years after the allies began pounding Baghdad with "smart" bombs and high-tech missiles, Iraq remains unfinished business for the American-led coalition that forced its retreat from Kuwait.

Far from being driven from power, President Saddam Hussein continues to order his state-controlled media to crow over what the daily *al-Qudsia* claimed yesterday was his victory in "the mother of all battles". Only last week he was described in an intelligence report to the Israeli Cabinet as being in charge of a "stable" regime.

Although Iraq has been impoverished by continuing United Nations sanctions, most of its corrupt ruling elite have been cushioned from the worst effects, and there are still those who believe that Baghdad is secretly trying to put together some form of chemical or biological weapons programme.

The UN estimates that Iraq bought 39 tonnes of growth media before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Each tonne can yield ten tonnes of bacteriological weapons, and mi-

crobes causing deadly diseases such as anthrax have a long shelf life. Seventeen tonnes, enough to kill up to 60 million people, remain unaccounted for, a factor made all the more worrying by Jordan's interception last November of \$25 million (£16 million) of Russian-made missile components which were heading illegally for Baghdad.

Saddam's regime, which bolsters its rule by barbaric punishments such as the amputation of ears and hands and the branding of foreheads to prevent army desertions, and to minimise the escalating crime figures, refuses to say who supplied the machinery, components, chemicals and biological precursors.

The Iraqi President continues to insist that Rolf Ekeds, the Swedish head of the UN Special Commission charged with overseeing the postwar destruction of Iraq's weapons programmes, should accept verbal assurances that the arms and warheads have been destroyed.

When the war ended with the ignominious flight of booby-laden Iraqi troops from the oil-rich emirate which it con-

tinued to claim as its "19th province", it was widely expected that tough UN ceasefire conditions would force Saddam to co-operate with the international community or provoke his overthrow. Neither has happened.

Western hopes of the imminent downfall of "the Butcher of Baghdad" were again boosted last August by the damaging defection to Jordan of his influential son-in-law, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, his brother, and their wives. However, the defections only confirmed the hopeless divisions between exiled opposition groups.

The bottom line is that we did not win the Gulf War," said Laurie Mylroie, a leading Iraq expert. "We are in a state of self-imposed delusion because Saddam is taking revenge." Ms Mylroie, based in the United States, is one of a growing number of analysts calling for a shift in American policy. She says that it is now time to try actively to overthrow Saddam.

A Cairo-based diplomat said: "With every year that passes the regrets are growing that we did not finish the job when there was an opportunity."

Crew adrift for 21 days

Dubai: Seven crew members adrift in a boat for three weeks in the Indian Ocean have been rescued after American military planes spotted them and radioed their location to a merchant ship, the US Navy said yesterday.

The crew of the *Nayevan* had been adrift for 21 days, all but one of them without food or water, but were reported in good health after the *Nayevan* picked them up and headed to the United Arab Emirates port of Dubai, naval officials said.

The *Nayevan* left Cochin, India, on December 20, and its engines two days later. The crew then hoisted makeshift sails until a plane crew from the aircraft carrier *USS* *Midway* spotted them.

Terracotta army was robbed 1,800 years ago

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINESE archaeologists were not the first to discover the famous terracotta tomb warriors in 1974. 1,800 years ago robbers plundered the north China site for the gold and silver buried with the life-size baked-clay statues which guard the tomb of Emperor Qin, near the modern city of Xian.

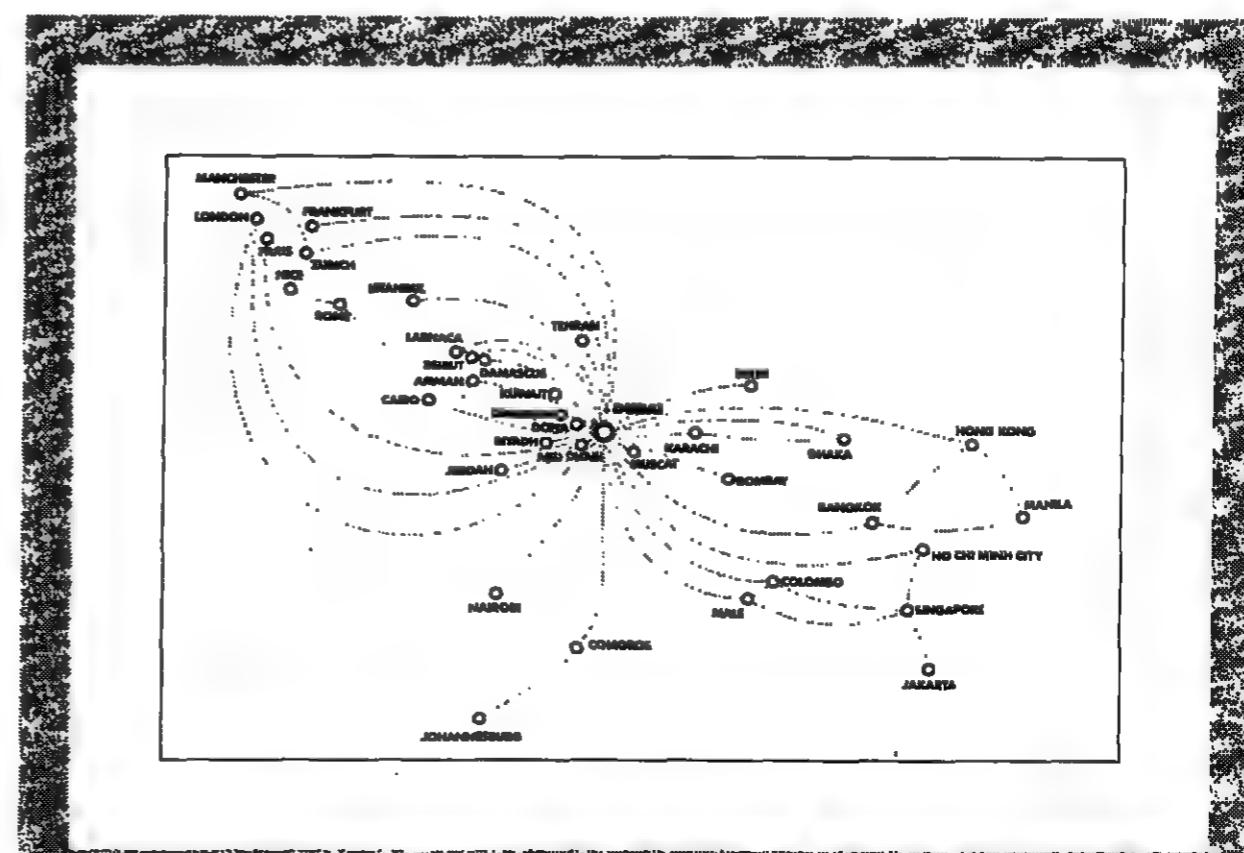
The discovery was made during a dig at the Museum of Terracotta Warriors and Horses. The museum was built over three pits full of terracotta warriors and horses, guards to the nether world for the first emperor of the Qin dynasty. The new finds were made in the last of three pits excavated.

The 65,000 square foot pit and its beams, pillars, passages and doorways had been preserved relatively intact because it suffered little damage from a fire in the late Qin dynasty.

The archaeologists have also discovered warriors mounted on horseback, shooting warriors and a carriage with four warriors — the first carriage found — in the third pit, which is thought to contain the richest store of relics.

Emperor Qin, credited with unifying China in 221 BC, ruled with an iron fist until his death 11 years later. He built the Great Wall, but also buried scholars alive and burnt their books.

Emirates. The perfect connection.



Best Long-Haul carrier '95

Good news: Emirates now serves Dubai 21 times a week from London and 5 times a week from Manchester, with good connections to over 20 cities in the Middle East and beyond.

Better news: you'll be choosing the airline voted Best Carrier to the Middle East and Best Long Haul Carrier '95 by Executive Travel Magazine.

Emirates

THE FINEST IN THE SKY

...and from that point of view Margaret is one of the First Eleven'



Elizabeth and Margaret arrive at Ballater station in 1946 for a holiday at Balmoral

him by his wife on a plate. Two days later a statement was issued from Kensington Palace:

"Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and the Earl of Snowdon, have mutually agreed to live apart. The Princess will carry out her public duties and functions unaccompanied by Lord Snowdon. There are no plans for divorce proceedings."

Elizabeth's press secretary, Ronald Allison, told the press: "The Queen is naturally very sad at what happened," adding that there had been "no

pressure from her on either Princess Margaret or Lord Snowdon to take any particular course". This was literally the truth. Elizabeth was indeed desperately sad at the failure of the marriage. She doted on the Snowdon children, who had spent so many of their holidays with her at Balmoral, Windsor and Sandringham while their parents were in some exotic location.

She loved her sister, who seemed doomed never to find happiness. Even while she disapproved of the Roddy Llewellyn connection, describing it privately as "my sister's

guttersnipe life", she had not attempted to forbid it. Like the rest of Margaret's inner circle, she felt somehow that the unhappy Princess's personal well-being was a responsibility on all of them.

Elizabeth and her advisers came to the conclusion that Roddy must temporarily disappear from the scene. The final act of Princess Margaret's doomed marriage was about to be played.

On May 10 it was announced from the Palace that the Princess was seeking a divorce; the statement stressed that she had no plans to remarry and intended to live her life as the Queen's sister to the full. It was not, however, the end of her friendship with Roddy. Elizabeth's arm's-length attitude to Roddy and his relationship with her sister was made perfectly plain in the difficulties over the organisation of Margaret's fiftieth birthday party in 1980. Elizabeth made it clear that she could not attend any party for her sister at which Roddy was present, as it would therefore appear that she was countenancing the relation-

ship. Margaret wanted him at the dinner; Elizabeth did not want him there at all. There were rows and eventually a compromise was reached: Colin and Anne Tenant, who, as Margaret's oldest and most

loyal friends, would otherwise have been seated at one of the top tables, were detained off to give Roddy dinner elsewhere, and he would be allowed to come in after 10.30 with the after-dinner guests. It was a clear signal that there could be no future in the friendship, which had already lasted seven years. To everyone's surprise it was ended not by the Princess but by Roddy a year

later, when he fell in love with and married Tania Soskin. The story ended happily for Roddy, who by this time had made a name for himself as a garden designer; he and Tania had two children and lived happily in an idyllic cottage in Oxfordshire. Margaret was alone again. "I'm back to where I started with Peter," she admitted, "but this time I'm divorced..."

Elizabeth remained on good

terms with Snowdon after the divorce. However badly he might have behaved towards her sister when their marriage was on the road to ruin, his comportment afterwards was impeccable and he proved to be an excellent father, although sometimes showing a cruel streak. Elizabeth was very fond of the Snowdon children, particularly Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones: "she virtually brought them up," a friend said. "They love the Queen and she loves them."

• Edited extracts from Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, to be published by William Heinemann on February 5, £20
• Sarah Bradford 1996

Book offer

Copies of *Elizabeth* can be bought by readers of *The Times* at a special price of £15 each (post and package free) from Reed Books Services, PO Box 5, Rushden, Northants NN10 6QJ (0933 44000). Cross cheques and make payable to Reed Books Services Ltd, with name and full address on the back, quoting reference K128. Allow up to 28 days for delivery from February 5.



The Queen described the Roddy Llewellyn connection as "my sister's guttersnipe life".

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ELIZABETH AND MARGARET GROWING UP

Elizabeth was four years and four months old when her sister, Margaret Rose, was born at Glamis on August 21, 1930. This time the fact that the new baby was not a boy caused disappointment. Margaret was an entirely opposite character to Elizabeth. She was extrovert, capricious, attention-seeking and naughty. One of her governesses said that she was the most difficult child she had ever had to teach. "Princess Elizabeth was always charming and unselfish," one of her mother's friends wrote; "Princess Margaret naughty but amusing."

Elizabeth was maternally protective of her sister and would never hear a word of criticism of her. Even when Margaret had done something particularly exasperating, Elizabeth would simply say: "Oh, Margaret!" In return, Margaret gave Elizabeth her total loyalty. At times Margaret's behaviour might cause strain, sometimes when they were grown up she would lose her temper, even when that sister became the Queen, but the underlying family feeling was always there. The relationship established in the nursery was to continue into their adult lives, with Elizabeth as the responsible elder sister and Margaret as the naughty girl who was always getting into scrapes.

The sisters were always close, welded together by their parents in a close-knit family quartet, "us four", as their father called it. He was desperately determined that his younger daughter should not suffer the discrimination which he had experienced in comparison with his elder brother, the acknowledged heir to the throne ("You will never know the difference 18 months could make," he once told Mrs Baldwin, the Prime Minister's wife, bitterly referring to his childhood and adolescence).

As far as possible, the four-year difference between the two children was to be ignored and, from the moment the youngest was out of baby clothes, the two would be dressed the same with dresses, shoes and hats in identical colours. This apparently was considered perfectly normal for upper-class families at the time, but it struck even the assimilated Chips Channon as odd when he saw the two Princesses still dressed the same at the Thanksgiving Service for the end of the Second World War in 1945, when Elizabeth was 19 and Margaret not yet 15. Their father would overcompensate for what he saw as the inferiority of Margaret's pos-

ition as the younger sister relative to the royal heiress by spoiling her, thus stirring up trouble for the future.

During the war there was always the training battalions of the Grenadiers stationed at Windsor, and it was the job of the 300-strong No 1 Company, known as the Castle Company, to guard the Royal Castle. Young officers of the Castle Company, such as Mark Bonham Carter and Hugh Euston, used to lunch regularly with the Princesses and their governesses. Crawfie and Monty. "There was a very happy atmosphere where when one lunched," one officer remembered. "Princess Elizabeth

was very, very devoted."

A friend and contemporary of Elizabeth's who lived near the Castle described life there as having "a happy family atmosphere". Contrasting it with her own family relationships, which were difficult, she said: "It was really what a family should be... they were very, very devoted."

This cherished childhood, lived in such close tandem with a sister four years younger than herself, meant that Elizabeth was, as a friend said, "relatively young (for her age)", while Margaret was precocious for her.

"The thing about her was that she was shy... didn't find things easy naturally, and there was always this stark comparison between her and Princess Margaret. The King used to look at Princess Margaret in sort of amazement that he had produced this object who found everything so easy and was a pretty little thing."

Princess Elizabeth was much more Hanoverian, much more solid; her face lit up when she smiled, but looked rather dead when she didn't — which remains the case today.

The King spoilt Princess Margaret dreadfully. The daughter of one of his couriers said: "She was his pet... she was always allowed to stay up dinner at the age of 13 and to grow up too quickly. The courtiers didn't like her much — they found her amusing, but... She used to keep her parents and everyone waiting for dinner because she wanted to listen to the end of a programme on the radio. I remember my father despairing of her."

Crawfie, the royal nanny, sensibly, worried about the effect this was having on Elizabeth and asked friends: "Could you this year only ask Princess Elizabeth to your party? We really are trying to separate them a bit because Princess Margaret does draw all the attention and Princess Elizabeth lets her do that." Elizabeth herself used to say: "Oh, it's so much easier when Margaret's there — everybody laughs at what Margaret says..." Her mother also had the same effect of silencing Elizabeth. "I noticed that, when the Queen was present, her daughter made no conversational effort

and relapsed into silence." Cecil Beaton wrote after one royal photographic session.

Things would not, however, be easy for her daughter Margaret, the spoilt darling of her father, the centre of attention at all the parties at Windsor, Balmoral and Buckingham Palace. Unlike her mother and sister, she had never had any role to play apart from exercising her talent to amuse and often (if you were a courtier's wife) to infuriate.

For Margaret, the death of her father meant expulsion from a childhood paradise. "The King's death," a friend said, "was a terrible thing for Princess Margaret; she worshipped him and it was also the first time anything really ghastly had happened to her." Her grief was heartbreaking — the unsympathetic John Gordon, then Editor of the *Sunday Express*, reported that she had had to be given bromide for four days to calm her. To Nancy Astor, she

wrote a touching letter about her father.

"You know what a truly wonderful person he was, the very heart and centre of our family, and no one could have had a more loving and thoughtful father. We were such a happy family and we will have such lovely memories of him to remember when the grief of his loss has lessened."

"He was so kind and brave all his life. We are thanking God for His words of comfort that make us sure he is with Him, safe and happy and perhaps closer to us than he has ever been."

The King had been the centre of their universe; now he was suddenly gone and their world had shifted on its axis, its focal point the new Queen. Both were stunned. Elizabeth wrote: "Mummy and Margaret have the biggest grief to bear, for their future must seem very blank, while I have a job and a family to think of."

A love of horses on courses

RACEGOER

Elizabeth's one extravagance is her racing, and even that is kept as far as possible on a businesslike basis. She is no longer one of the leading owners, either in terms of number of horses in training or prize money.

Racing today is a big-money business and has changed out of all recognition since the advent of the really big players such as the al-Maktoum brothers a decade ago. The Arabs have 500 mares, Elizabeth only 20. Three-quarters of the Arabs' horses are bought at public auction with money no object. Elizabeth rarely buys, partly because there would be political repercussions if she spent vast sums on horses. She races the horses that she breeds.

As far as breeding goes, she has the studs which she inherited — two in Norfolk on the Sandringham estate and one at Polhampton in Hampshire, where she keeps her yearlings.



Thrill of the turf: the excitement is all too much at Ascot

In 1982 she bought West Ilsley training stables in Berkshire for about £750,000. Some of her horses were already being trained there by Major Dick Hern (who was given a seven-year lease terminating in 1989), but Elizabeth decided she would like to own a racing stable.

As well as loving all horses and knowing a great deal about them, Elizabeth likes going racing, as any snapshot of her at Ascot will show, when she comes alive as she never does on ceremonial occasions.

Why female spiders make a meal of mating

Dying for sex

THE MATING habits of the spider have always struck a chill into the faint-hearted. The much smaller males, overcoming their fear of the voracious females, approach and may make themselves known by plucking gently at the female's web. They can hang about for days waiting to be noticed, dancing, posing, or even offering the object of their interest a fly to unwrap.

Despite it all, many males are eaten by the females as soon as they have mated with them. Sometimes, a pathetic male with only a few legs left continues to struggle for sex long after a sensible creature would have given up. Biologists have long puzzled over this, for sexual cannibalism seems to offer no advantage to males, and not much more than a good lunch to females.

Now two explanations have emerged at the same time. Göran Arnquist and Stefan Henriksson of Umeå University in Sweden claim that it is simply a hangover from the female's youth. They studied fishing spiders, which grow more than an inch long and live on tadpoles and small fish.

Female spiders produce only a single batch of eggs, and the number of eggs depends on the size of the female. The more she eats, the more eggs, and the greater the



SCIENCE
BRIEFING
Nigel
Hawkes

number of progeny. This means that selection pressure for voracious females is immensely strong, and is governed by a single hormone, so the creatures cannot turn off their appetites when they are adult.

For the behaviour to survive, the benefits of a big appetite for females must exceed the risks of diminishing their progeny by eating its father. But what about the males?

Maydianne Andrade, a zoologist from the University of Toronto, studied the Australian Redback spider, a species in which males co-operate in their

demise by somersaulting during sex to position themselves above the female's jaws.

Bizarre, on the face of it. But Ms Andrade found that cannibalistic males copulated longer, and fertilised more eggs, than those which survived. In addition, females that ate a mate were more likely to reject another. So the males gain by increasing the chances that their genes will carry on.

In any case, she reports in *Science*, males generally mate only once, so by dying they lose little in terms of opportunities. And because the females are prone to promiscuity, males gain by protecting their paternity in the single chance they get. If it costs them their lives, so what?

Benefits of solid work on fluids



A FLUID is a fluid until it is constrained in a very thin layer between two smooth surfaces. Then it becomes a solid, Israeli scientists have discovered.

The result is paradoxical because an unconstrained layer of fluid — a drink spilt on a table, for example — continues to flow downhill however thin it is. But if there is a second surface above it, and if the layer is no more than six molecules thick, it goes solid.

Hitherto the only way of achieving such a change was by increasing pressure or by freezing. Using a fluid called octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (OMCTS) Jacob Klein and Eugenia Kurnikova, of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth, have shown that an abrupt change takes place at the gap narrows.

At seven molecules thick the fluid flows. At six molecules thick it suddenly goes solid, shear resistance increasing ten-millionfold so that the fluid no longer escapes from between the surfaces.

The finding could have implications for lubrication, for the wear of rubbing surfaces, and for the wetting of surfaces by fluids. The Weizmann team has found the effect in other fluids too, and is now going on to investigate the nature of the transition and of the "solid" produced.

Did Stonehenge slide into place?



WERE the bluestones of Stonehenge dragged to Salisbury Plain by teams of men, or carried there by glaciers? They come from a mountain in Mid-Wales, so some agency must have borne them to their present location.

A year ago, David Bowen, of the University of Wales in Cardiff, used chlorine-36 dating, which shows when a rock surface was first exposed to air, to disprove the glacial theory. His figures showed that a sample of stone from Stonehenge had been exposed only 14,000 years ago, too late for any ice-sheet to have carried it to Wiltshire.

Now the glacial theorists have hit back. In *Antiquity*, Owen Williams-Thorpe, of the Open University, and some colleagues argue that the fragment dated by Professor Bowen might indeed have been carried by glaciers, then reburied. Or it might have broken off recently from a much larger piece, exposing a new surface.

Chlorine-36 dating could help to date the outcrops of stone in Wales, and the bluestones of Stonehenge. If sufficient samples of undamaged stone could be found, they say. But the results would still be open to interpretation. "Chlorine-36 dates give no evidence either for or against glacial transport of the bluestones of Stonehenge," they conclude.



Born to question: birth order may be more important than genes or social class in determining how revolutionary a child will grow up to be

Are younger siblings rebels with a cause?

Come the revolution, what drives some people into rebellion and others into reaction? Self-interest plays a big part. But it is also plain that some people are inherently more radical than others. According to an extraordinary new study, soon to be published, the most powerful predictor of whether somebody

will join or resist a revolution, political or intellectual, is his or her birth order. Younger children rebel, eldest children defend the status quo.

On hearing this, most people respond by thinking of exceptions. But give Frank Sulloway of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the author of this theory, a chance to explain himself.

Sulloway is not a man to do things by half. A respected psychologist and expert statistician, he has spent 26 years gathering data on the effect of birth order on personality. His methods are objective. He has asked more than 100 historians to score thousands of historical characters according to how revolutionary or reactionary the person was on various different measures. Then he painstakingly tracked down the birth order of as many as he could.

Take one of his examples: the theory of evolution. Between 1700 and 1875, many hundreds of people expressed views on evolution. Throughout those years, evolution was seen as a radical, subversive doctrine. Sulloway found a marked difference between elder siblings and younger ones. Individual later-borns were ten times more likely than first-borns to believe in evolution — a difference that persisted until the late 19th century, when evolution at last became a respectable idea and the birth-order effect disappeared.

He then compared their views with the age at which they expressed them. As expected, older people were less likely to support the radical doctrine of evolution than younger people. But a 25-year-old first-born was as likely to support evolution as an 80-year-old later-born. Birth order is even stronger than age in its effect on radicalism.

It is also much stronger than social class. Upper-class Charles Darwin and lower-class Alfred Russel Wallace were younger children and supporters of evolution. Upper-class Charles Lyell and lower-class William Whewell were eldest children and opposed it. This pattern was repeated throughout. Yet whole acclaimed biographies have been written of Darwin arguing that the fight for and against evolution was determined largely by the protagonists' views on the social order. Such books do not even mention birth order.

Charles Darwin, a fifth-generation younger child and four years younger than his next oldest sibling, was, in Sulloway's phrase, "loaded to the gills with predictable factors" for making him a radical in his chosen field. The wealthy and reclusive son of

Matt Ridley reports on a new theory that suggests first-born children grow up to defend the status quo while later offspring tend to kick over the political and intellectual traces

more sense I can make of it," says Sulloway.

Modern neo-Darwinism is all about conflict: conflict between genes, between genders, between parents and offspring, and between siblings. Darwinists predict that siblings sometimes have to compete for their share of parental investment. In extreme cases, some eagle chicks always kill all their younger siblings to ensure a monopoly of parental care.

In a similar way, it seems, human children learn to diversify their behaviour and interests to avoid too much direct competition with siblings. Later-born human children, in particular, seem to develop an inclination to strike out on their own, choose career paths different from their siblings, and fight for attention by being open-minded, risk-taking and radical. These can be faults rather than advantages: gullibility is a later-born characteristic.

As Sulloway predicts, this pattern sometimes results in a zig-zag effect in large families with some younger children being reactionary just in reaction to the radicalism of the next sibling.

Sulloway's argument demolishes all simplistic notions of nature and nurture. Until now it was thought that being brought up in the same family was as close as you could get to having the same environment. But it is not. Being number one in a large family is a very different experience from being number three. It is as different as being the dominant or the subordinate animal in a troop of monkeys.

If Sulloway is right, it might seem to vindicate those who argue that human nature is determined by environment, not genes. But in fact it does not say such things. The neo-Darwinian argument that there is such a thing as an adaptive human nature has never assumed that all differences between individuals are genetic. Quite the reverse: it argues that we all have much the same genes, designed to react to different environments in different ways. First-borns have different personalities from later-borns not because of "culture" but because of common human instincts.

Neo-Darwinians have been saying for years that they are not genetic determinists obsessed with nature rather than nurture. Rather, they have insisted that human nature was an evolved set of adaptations, some of them hard-wired, others designed to be flexibly altered by the environment. Conventional wisdom in the social sciences holds that people are just random, hapless victims of their peculiar background culture, as if culture were some summa-



Charles Darwin was a fifth-generation younger sibling

tist. 893 members of the French National Convention during the Terror of 1793-94, the leaders of 62 different American reform movements, such as the abolition of slavery, and more than 700 protagonists in the Protestant Reformation in Europe. In each case, younger children were

far more likely to support reform or revolution, while elder children were more likely to support reaction.

The effect is proportional to how radical the revolution is. Thus, Newtonian physics, which had fewer political and religious implications than Darwinian biology, was less strongly associated with younger children. Eugenics and spiritualism, which were reactionary movements, were actually led by first-borns. Many theories, including psychoanalysis, relativity and Copernican astronomy were supported by later-borns when they were new and heretical, then

much like a younger brother. The really intriguing thing about Sulloway's argument (which will appear in his book *Born to Rebel*, to be published by Pantheon later this year) is that he has come to believe that it fits neatly into a neo-Darwinian theory. In other words, it may actually be an adaptive response rather than



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Out of my mind with terror



For years, Melvyn Bragg secretly lived in fear of 'out of body experiences'. For the first time, he tells how he overcame his nightmare

They began when I was about 13 and continued upwards of two years, at times intermittently. They faded away slowly, but still at 18 or 19 I was apprehensive that they might return, and in force. They did, briefly, at the end of my twenties, but since then I have been spared.

Usually they came at night. I cannot recall the first time, but I do remember the first onslaught. My parents kept a pub and they would be downstairs from about 5.30pm until after 11pm. I would have been out at choir practice, the Scouts, swimming, playing football, whatever, and come back to take it on. Having eaten a quick snack in the bar kitchen downstairs, I would go up to my bedroom — I would be alone in the flat above the pub. I would know that it was waiting for me, but I had no alternative but to go upstairs, although I would feel distraught.

I used to say my prayers then and yet I never mentioned this fear in them. For one thing, that would have been to extenuate, and the prayers I said were set ones, spoken twice on Sundays in church and most mornings in school assembly. There was no room for individual additions except to bless parents and relations, but that was somehow allowed for. What was not allowed was to tell anyone what was happening.

I cannot remember before or since being anything like as terrified. I remember the fact of it now, and even a little digging into memory gives of something of the taste of it. I would simply lie in bed waiting for it to happen, screwing up my eyes as tight as possible, hoping that I would be felled by instant, merciful sleep or somehow left alone. When I was, the relief the next morning was momentary before the fear began to build again.

What happened was this. Not part of me, but what I was left the boy's body on that bed and went above — it seemed to the corner of the ceiling next to the window. It hovered there. It, that thing, that object, was me. The huddle on the bed was controlled by it. There was no will in the boy's body. There was

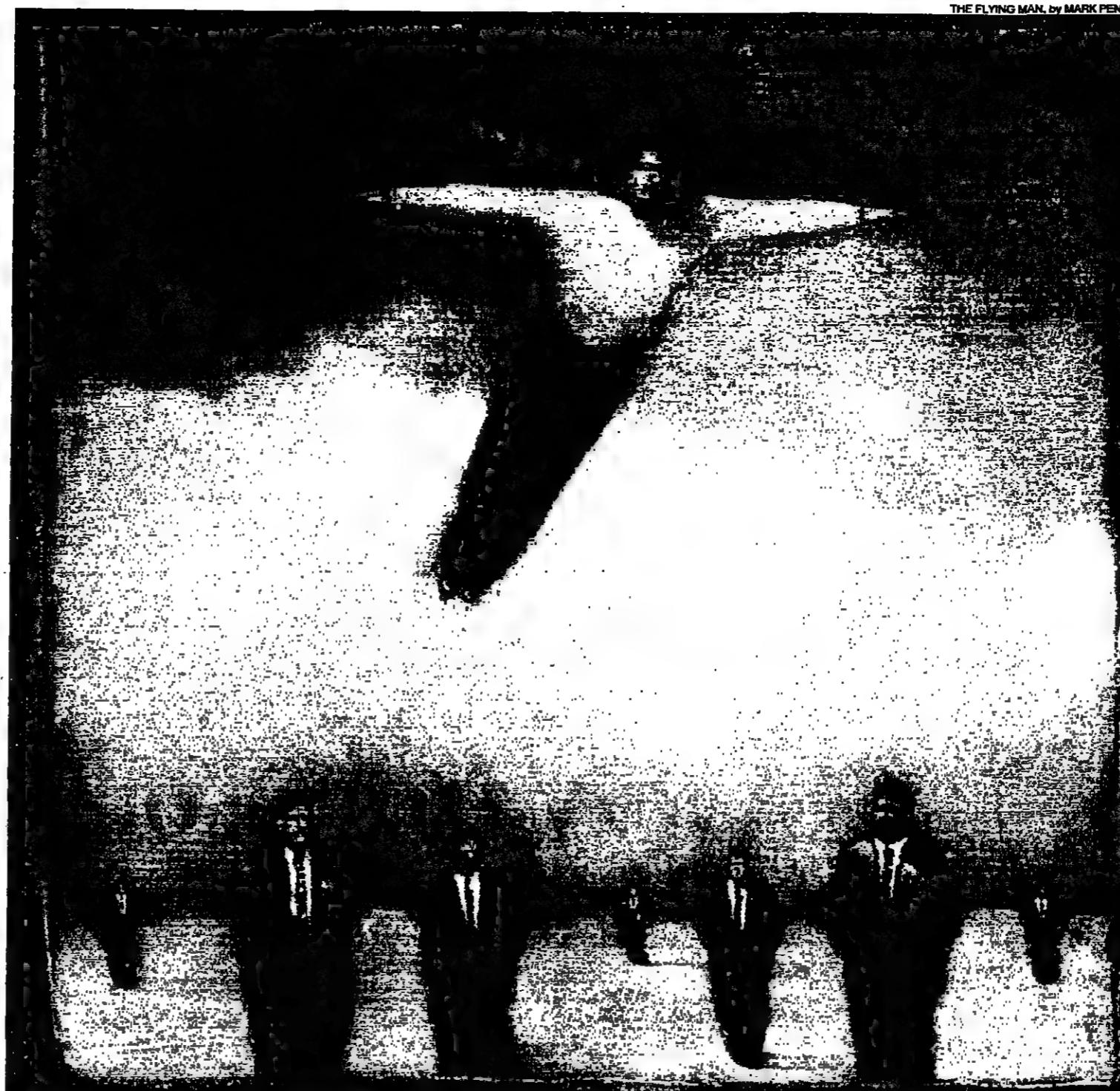
only, as it were, a holding state uninhabited, save for a possessing aura of terror. Whether the terror was in the body or in that thing which, at times, I thought I could make out and describe, I do not know. But the experience was terror.

If the thing moved away then the body would be finished. It would be no more, because that thing not only controlled the body but gave it life. The desperate fear was — would these two fuse again or not? What did this presence want the body to do besides lying inert and being a void? Somehow an invisible help-line would be thrown and the two would come together — and usually by that time I was exhausted and went into sleep of sort.

This became the secret obsession of my life over those years. The noise from the pub downstairs, which could be lulling or sometimes on Fridays and Saturdays, rather threatening, would often be a help. But when the pub closed and my parents had cleared up and settled downstairs for their final talk, the silence intensified the dread.

On spring and summer nights they would often go out for a walk after they had cleared up. I wanted to rush down and beg them not to after the cheesy "We're just off for a bit of fresh air", but of course I would have been ashamed to have done that. I dare not. Left alone was the worst possible state. And so I would track their walk. I knew the route. I would try to time it. I would try to be with them.

Down Burnfoot past Scots, where they used to have the funeral horses to Joe Hill's on the corner with a shed in the garden where he slept for his asthma. Then into Birdcage Walk, along the cinder track past the allotments, with the pigeons silent as the pub, and on to the West Cumberland Farmers' warehouses. I feared I was always ahead of them and forced myself to slow down. Past Toppings field, where I used to sledge and where I used to play when I lived in Council House Yard. Toppings field, with its great beech tree and its bomb shelters dug in the war.



An artist's view of the "out of body experience" — Melvyn Bragg now believes that such events may be evidence of a distinction between body and soul

Then the Redmaynes clothing factory where my mother had worked as a girl.

Then they would turn into Station Road opposite the factory and slowly up the hill back into the middle of the town, left around Blue Bell corner, past Tickle's Lane and Plaskett's Lane and down towards the pub. I was always ahead and so I'd go over the route again trying to pick out more and more details until I heard them coming down the hill and, finally, the key turned in the lock and there would be some comfort.

These experiences, or attacks, were never anything other than utterly terrifying. I have read other people describing analogous experiences in terms of happiness and hope; that was never mine. In its most intensive period, they began to happen in the classroom, on the street, everywhere, and I seemed to spend my entire time constructing strategies to evade them or endure them.

It was impossible to talk to anyone about it. My parents could not have been better or kinder, but it was inconceivable that I could discuss this with them. How would I describe it? What would I literally say?

It has taken me this long to be able to write about it openly and autobiographically, although it was part of the main character in my first novel — when I was 25 — unconsciously as it were.

I was still convinced that I had never admitted to it when, consciously, I made this state part of the underpinning of the main character in a later novel when I was in my late forties. But it was when I found myself referring to it in a recent interview about religious belief, in which the possibility of a duality and a soul was introduced, that I wanted to begin to put on paper something of that experience.

I could not talk to my parents, as I have said, as I was

not ill, so there was no need of a doctor. It was totally off the radar as far as friends were concerned. I just had to get through it, although at the time I thought simultaneously both that it would never end and that this attack could be the last.

I am sure that there are a number of plausible explanations. We know that people with an amputated arm can be driven to a frenzy at the pain in their missing fingers. We know from those who have been almost dead, but just "returned" that similar experiences to mine are not uncommon. A. J. Ayer described one such most vividly.

There are fantasies within the human condition and in the casebooks of many analysts — Oliver Sacks is just one example — which furnish explained instances of circum-

stances much more bizarre. I am sure that materialists of consciousness will bring forward proof and so on. And there is the undeniable, unpredictable pressure of adolescence.

But at the risk of building far too much on this slender base of personal experience, my current thinking is that what I experienced is evidence of a duality, of a split, in Christian terms, of a distinction between body and soul.

It is relevant perhaps, and it could take away from my case that I was brought up as a strong Christian and the religious experience was, with me — as is common — especially strong in early adolescence. But the solidity of the thing which was undoubtedly outside my body, and the number of times it happened, and most importantly, the fact that it was the life, the intelligence as it were, is something I cannot, and do not want to, deny.

I am prepared to be told that this evidence is too personal and too slight, but for what it is worth I hold on to it and find in it a duality which magnetises my earlier, schooled, received faith.

Perhaps these experiences would have faded away on their own, but at about 15 I realised that I had to attack them. At the same time I was not doing well at school and I knew that I had to study or leave and get work. I began to overwork and to write and to do as many other things as I could manage. Most importantly, I stayed in that bedroom studying on a chipped-off table which was wedged between the bed and the wardrobe. This was a conscious attempt to face up to it, in the very place where I had experienced it most violently and frighteningly. Gradually, I grew a bit stronger, although even in my late twenties I could feel fragile and vulnerable.

It is something that I would like to understand more. I would also like to gather up the determination to attempt to go through that experience again, but that will take a build-up of energy and nerve which another part of me says it would be foolish to do. To seek to uncork a part of the past now blessedly gone would be not only painful but dangerous.

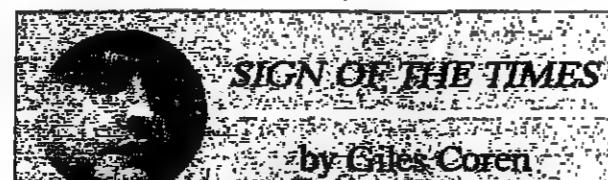
Standing up for gallantry

ON A crowded Tube between Camden Town and Euston one morning last week, a woman I had never met before told me she was 38. It was an unsolicited goblet of personal information, and left me feeling a bit of a cad. One should never, I had always believed, put a woman in a position where she is forced to reveal her age.

But it was the only defence she could muster, faced with a young man who had unthinkingly offered her his seat in a crowded Tube carriage. It was a reflex action on my part, a knee-jerk response (literally) born of careless breeding: see a woman without a seat, stand up and offer her yours. "I can stand up just as well as you," she barked. "I'm only 38, you know." The practice of offering one's seat away on the basis of chromosomes is something I have never questioned, like opening doors or walking on the outside of the pavement. Whether it was a "good" or "bad" thing didn't come into it. If I fail to open the car door for my mother, even now, she doesn't speak for the rest of the journey. But perhaps it is a worse offence to suggest that a woman is incapable of standing than to remain seated while she does so.

It is becoming more and more hazardous to offer that seat. I have about a one in three rejection rate on my offers, but I never ask why. On the Northern Line between Kentish Town and Bank, where it is arguably more hygienic to stand up anyway, I tried to go a little deeper.

There were half a dozen



There is a consensus on pregnant women getting seats

people standing and no available seats. A woman in her forties was standing in the aisle reading a book with a shiny cover. A man of about my age was sitting nearby reading a paper. I asked him why he didn't offer her his seat. " Didn't see her," he said. " So why didn't he offer her the seat now? "

" It's market forces, " he explained. " I have paid to use the Tube, and if there's a seat for me there's a seat for me. I don't see why perfectly healthy-looking women need to sit down any more than I do. "

There was a general consensus that seats should be given up for pregnant women, the obviously old and decrepit.

and people with broken limbs — but women were equally as likely to do as men. (On the Paris Metro there is even a list of priority cases posted on the window, with *mutiles de guerre* just above *mutiles civils*, giving rise to a bizarre image of two one-legged men arguing over how they came by their amputation.) But is there no level at which gender comes into it?

" I certainly hope not, " said a student called Julie. " I think it is a bit of a liberty to use me as a vessel to show off your gallantry. It smacks of an age when being courteous to women was an excuse to mistreat them in other ways. Another woman said that

she always accepts a seat to save the man the embarrassment of being turned down — a complete reversal in the gallantry stakes.

One commuter, a Mr Meeker, put his point very bluntly. " If they wanted gallantry, they could have had gallantry, " he declared. " But they can't go around claiming to be equal and then expect me to give them my seat as well. I am sure there are plenty of women who would be delighted to be offered a seat, but they're not the vainglorious ones, are they? The feminists have ruined it for them. I'm not too happy with women going to work anyway, I don't want to make it even easier for them. "

Wary of seeming to espouse similarly anti-feminist views, I now tend to say nothing, and just get up as if I feel like stretching my legs. If she wants to sit down she can sit down. No one is embarrassed, and no one is condescended to — the only worry is that Mr Meeker will slip in on my blind side.

But Mr Meeker aside, it is time for British women to come to the rescue of the nation's men. The age of chivalry is clearly dead, but men who still want to give it a bash should be encouraged. We are not needed to fight in wars any more, we do not have to go to dangerous places to prop up a crumbling Empire, there are no runaway horses for us to subdue, nor even dastardly communists plots for us to foil. We are in danger of superannuation. Can we not be allowed this little indulgence?

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Matthew Parris



■ For some people the performance has ended in acclaim, while for others it never really began

This story would be thought far-fetched were it to appear as fiction. You would say the poignancy was contrived. But it happened just so, last Thursday night. In the late 1970s when Margaret Thatcher was Leader of the Opposition, I was sent by the Conservative Research Department to work in her Commons office as her correspondence clerk. A familiar figure in the central lobby in those days was a middle-aged gentleman — call him Mr Brown — who would wait there for hours, hoping for an appointment. He had written a book making proposals for the organisation of the world, and wished to discuss it with Mrs Thatcher. He had sent her the manuscript. He had even learnt some chapters by heart. Should she wish to discuss them, he was ready. In some ways Mr Brown was a sort of Keith Joseph figure: learned, courteous, timid, though philosophically confident. But he never achieved the recognition Keith came to enjoy, and he had no money.

He sat in the lobby, week after week, never pushy or insistent. His suit grew gradually shabbier, but he remained a gentleman. You could guess his intelligence by his sharp eyes. He understood that Mrs Thatcher was too busy to see him, but he was on hand just in case she ever had time.

She never did. She would have made time if I had asked her to, for she was unfailingly personally kind. But I did not suggest this because his desire was not to shake her hand and receive a friendly word, but to convince her of his case. She would not have been convinced. The lobby was a safe and warm place, the police there respected Mr Brown and were good to him, and he had his contemplations to entertain him. I thought it might be best for him for this to continue.

It has continued for nearly 20 years. I am not sure whom he now plans to see, but, older, thinner, greyer and (I am afraid) even poorer, he still comes often. I wrote about him here years ago, and it caused something of a falling-out between us, as he felt rather misrepresented: but he knows I admire him. I do not inquire into his personal circumstances but understand that he refuses to take any kind of welfare benefit, as he does not believe in socialism.

Last Thursday night I had planned to go to a concert at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, where the young pianist Ian Jones was playing Bach's Piano Concerto in D minor. But at 4pm *The Times* asked me to write a sketch about Baroness Thatcher's Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture, which began at 6.30, so I

Here was that stoical figure from the Commons lobby in a doorway in the Strand

Then a religious bigot came up and began screaming at us about damnation and stabbing at us with his fingers. Unwilling to leave Mr Brown in these circumstances, I sat with him. The bigot made off as four young men and women, one with a tattooed on her forehead and the others with cans of lager, arrived in our doorway. They ignored me. "Are you okay?" they asked Mr Brown. "We hang around here," one of the youths said to me. "We see he's all right. He's a gent."

I bade Mr Brown goodbye, in the care of better protection than I could afford, and hurried on to St Martin-in-the-Fields, entering to the sound of thunderous clapping. "He was excellent," someone whispered to me. Ian Jones's performance, too, was over, and I had arrived for the applause.

You can take it that Mr Brown is not short of offers of help. He does not want help any more than Keith Joseph did, and this story is not a parable about Thatcherism. It is not a parable about anything. It is not a parable. Keith is dead, and there is nothing to be done about Mr Brown. There is nothing to be done about Mr Portillo, about the religious bigot, the tattooed girl, or me. There is certainly nothing to be done about Lady Thatcher. It all simply happened; and like most things which happen, it is without meaning.

Of course it's my job to know everything, M'lud — but who exactly are all these people?

This is a whole new ball game for me

I t is hard for us as columnists to keep in mind the ignorance of many of our readers about subjects they are not interested in. Many readers are not interested in politics, economics or international relations, the subjects that I usually write about. I am not interested in contemporary pop music, football management or women's fashions. If I keep firmly in mind that Newt Gingrich means no more to many readers, even of *The Times* than Terry Venables means to me, I shall no doubt offer a better service.

It is Terry Venables indeed who started me in this unaccustomed vein of introspection. What do I know about him? First of all, I know that he is famous, not as famous as the Princess of Wales, but probably about as famous as Hugh Grant, and he was already famous when Hugh Grant had not been heard of. I know that he has something to do with the England football team, soccer not rugger. He is not Will Carling, and if he has a wife, which I do not know, she is not the blonde young woman — it would be politically incorrect to call her a "girl" — who used to read the weather forecast, perhaps for *ITN*. Or maybe that was always someone else, and is perhaps now the young woman who is paid £500,000 to read the lottery numbers.

I do not know exactly what Terry Venables does for the English football side. I thought he was the manager, but I heard him called the coach, though I had always supposed that those were two different personages. At all events, he is going to stop doing it, though he has been doing it quite well. He will stop in the summer. There has been some kind of a row about his giving up

the job, but I am not clear what this row is about. The people who run the Football Association, if that is the correct name for Terry Venables's employers, are not the same as the people who run rugby football, because they are Will Carling's lot. The FA board are not therefore "old farts", but being middle-aged men running a young man's sport, they probably count as honorary old farts, as I do myself, and are almost certainly in the wrong about something, if not about everything.

Terry Venables himself seems to be middle-aged, to judge by his pictures on television. I suppose when he was young he played football for some club, since almost all football managers are ex-footballers. I have no idea for which club he played, but I presume it was not Grimsby Town, which would not have been grand enough for young Terry. Perhaps he scored the winning goal in the (supposititious) Cup Final when Chelsea beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-3 in extra time in 1962. That is the sort of thing football commentators remember, but I do not.

He must have been born somewhere. Did he learn his football among the lowering slag heaps of Derbyshire? Or within the sound of Bow Bells? There is so much detail which I do not know, but might have read in some profile. He is the sort of man who used to be profiled in *The Observer* to give that newspaper the common touch of the Hampstead intellectual who is interested in football. At some point Terry Venables became a businessman. He does not seem to be as good at business as he is at coaching soccer elevens, because he is now going to spend the autumn in litigation about business matters and in libel suits. I must myself be careful, for any-

one who likes suing for libel is capable of suing me for defamation, slander, malice, criminal libel, contempt of court, *scandalum magnatum* or piracy on the high seas. Did I call Terry Venables an "old fart"? Not at all, M'lud, I said that all his enemies and ill-wishers, who ever and wheresoever they might be, belonged to that camp and classification.

Yet even that is not safe. I seem

to remember that Terry Venables does have a great enemy, who plays Caesar to his Pompey — the Roman general not the football club — called Alan Sugar. I am supposed to know about him because he is a real businessman. His trademark is design, stable, just as Richard Branson's is balloons. His company is called Amstrand, and it sells low-cost computers, or used to do so. Alan Sugar has rows with people, and had a row with Terry Venables over something or another, after a period of amity and friendship in which, I think, Alan and Terry were

brothers.

In any case, I wish to make it clear, in the face of the court, that I have never suggested that Mr Sugar, whom I hold in the highest esteem, is an old fart, or that he has ever met Will Carling, or that he has read the weather forecast for Tyne Tees Television, or that he is other than the peaceful and wholly admirable character that gentlemen and ladies of the jury, you see before you,

I do, at this point, know something. I have at least one hard fact to offer. Mr Venables and Mr Sugar had their quarrel over Tottenham Hotspur, a London football club. Tottenham Hotspur plays at White Hart Lane. The White Hart was the heraldic badge of his late Majesty, King Richard II, son of the Black Prince and grandson of King Edward III, the founder of the Order of the Garter. Richard was overthrown by the usurper, King Henry V, from whom the bogus Lancastrian claim to the throne was derived. William Shakespeare wrote a play about these events. All Tottenham Hotspur supporters are therefore loyal Yorkists, in terms of the War of the Roses. I imagine that this may have been the issue on which Mr Venables and Mr Sugar fell out. Mr Venables would be the true Yorkist and Mr Sugar might favour the usurper. Query: did Henry V wear designer stubble?

There is nothing like healing and extensive ignorance. The world begins a fog, through which strange and exotic figures appear and into which they disappear. One should not actually see these people, if one can avoid it. Before Christmas, I went to a party at Tiffany's where Elizabeth Hurley was *prized out to me*.

She was a good-looking young woman wearing black sou-wester trousers. I now have a series of associations between Miss Hurley and the trolley fleet, and thence on to the wickedness of the European fisheries policy. Perhaps Terry Venables also has a view about cod quotas and the Irish Box. I would like Terry Venables, Elizabeth Hurley, Alan Sugar, Hugh Grant, Richard Branson, Will Carling and Mrs Will Carling — whoever she may prove to be — all to dress up in sou-westers and drop barrels of rotten herring on the lawn of President Scalfaro at the Quirinal in Rome. That would make a good photo-opportunity, and it might please the Cornish fishermen as well.

Away from social chaos

Governments must soothe our insecurities too, argues Peter Riddell

Barones Thatcher asked the right question, but gave an answer for the 1980s, not the 1990s. John Major has so far offered only a partial answer. Tony Blair has provided an appealing answer, but one which raises many other questions. Since the new year, British politics has stumbled into a serious debate about ideas.

The question, identified by Lady Thatcher on Thursday, is that the Tories are unpopular now "above all because the middle classes — and all those who aspire to join the middle classes — feel they no longer have the incentives and opportunities they expected from a Conservative Government". But her explanation that this is because the Government is spending, borrowing and taxing too much is flawed. Of course, people would like taxes to be lower. But the disillusionment of the middle classes, Middle England or whatever, reflects deeper worries brought to the surface by the recession of the early 1990s. For the first time, that produced the shock of widespread redundancy even in successful companies and the public sector, in Tory heartlands of the South as well as Labour strongholds in the North. The Thatcher Governments' attempts to give people a direct stake through the big increase in home-ownership, has turned sour for many new or aspiring members of the middle class.

These insecurities have not disappeared with the recovery. "Downsizing", that horrible euphemism, remains a fear for many managers, as companies strive to cut costs in the face of intensified international competition. Other changes have left many unskilled people, particularly at the margins of the labour market, either permanently unemployed or with only a series of temporary, part-time jobs.

The leaders of the main parties ac-



cept that these international economic pressures are not going to disappear, nor should they be resisted. There is no serious support for protectionism, unlike in, say, France or America. The real question is how the consequences of these global economic forces can be made socially and politically acceptable. Lady Thatcher misses the point. Curbing, or even cutting, the burden of public spending and taxation may be a necessary condition for economic success, hard though she found it to achieve, but this alone does not address, and may even increase, people's insecurities.

John Major's Government has put all its money on making Britain competitive — making it, to use its not very catchy mantra, the enterprise centre of Europe. Rather like the stakeholding society, this slogan is an umbrella covering a whole range of policies: from encouraging wealth-creation, through deregulation and reducing burdens on business, to

containing spending and taxes, and promoting training and skills. Only the Tories can, I think, argue, achieve these aims, since Labour is inhibited by its high-spending, high-tax instincts, its trade union links, attachment to the social chapter, a minimum wage and so on.

Senior ministers recognise — in the words of Stephen Dorrell, the rising hope of the Tory Centre-Left — that the "necessity for us to make a full-blooded commitment to a process of constant and quickening change creates a conflict for the politicians when the voters are yearning for a stability which they believe they have lost". His answer to these anxieties is that he will do what he can to achieve his aims, and to address, and may even increase, people's insecurities.

John Major's Government has put all its money on making Britain competitive — making it, to use its not very catchy mantra, the enterprise centre of Europe. Rather like the stakeholding society, this slogan is an umbrella covering a whole range of policies: from encouraging wealth-creation, through deregulation and reducing burdens on business, to

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TOKYO SWORDS

A battle looms — with implications well beyond Japan

The Japanese have just finished celebrating, if that is the right word, the holiday period which they call "forgetting the year". Rarely have the prayers for a clean break been so fervent: the book of 1995 contained Japan's worst chapter of misery since the postwar recovery began.

The year soared, inflicting further punishment on Japan's faltering economy. Then came the Kobe earthquake, and the poison gas attacks that led to the uncovering of the sinister designs of the Aum Shinrikyo sect. The year ended with the announcement of a deeply unpopular scheme to spend \$4.2 billion of public money to bail out investors, mostly Japan's cosseted farmers, who lost their shirts when Japan's housing loan corporations went into well-deserved insolvency after the bubble of property prices burst. Worse may follow: this is only one, relatively minor, aspect of Japan's biggest banking crisis since the 1920s. To cap it all, Japan's political leadership appeared, in the inept hands of the ageing and powerless Socialist Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, to be even weaker than its economic miracle.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's new Prime Minister, has an aura of authority about him which is enough in itself to lift the national mood somewhat. But the sense of relief that he brings may not last long. Mr Hashimoto, a tough talker whose popularity soared when he successfully fought off American demands in trade talks last year, is expected to lead Japan decisively back to sustainable prosperity. As a known practitioner of *kendo*, the martial art played with wooden swords, Mr Hashimoto looks the part of bold reformer; but his instincts lie with the status quo, and instinct will be reinforced by his political strategy, which is to avoid elections until he estimates that his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is poised to regain the dominance of Japanese politics which it enjoyed until 1993. He is unlikely to risk the ire of powerful bureaucrats, let alone the retailers and farmers who form the backbone of traditional LDP support, by championing the deregulation that Japan needs.

AN IRA OFFER

Mitchell's mediating team is closing gaps

Beneath the clatter of verbal fire which accompanies every negotiation on Northern Ireland, one key position may have shifted — and in the right direction. This Thursday, Senator George Mitchell and his two fellow referees are due to deliver their proposals on how the deadlock over decommissioning IRA arms might be resolved. The parties are still divided and compromises are hard. But the differences have been shrunk by the very existence of mediators and by their steady probing of both positions.

The IRA's insistence that it will not "surrender" and that soldiers and policemen should disarm at the same time is melting away in face of its own foolishness. The IRA has never been invited to humiliate itself but to give convincing guarantees that it will seek to persuade people by democratic means alone. The "demand" for security force weapons to be given up at the same time has been undermined by the idiocy of the implied equivalence and by the fact that fewer police and military weapons are visible with each week of unbroken peace.

The IRA's fantasy agenda created for the airwaves has given way to a slow but clear acceptance of two out of the three so-called "Washington Principles". These three British conditions for the opening of all-party talks on Northern Ireland's future call for the IRA to show a willingness to disarm, for the Government and Sinn Fein to agree on how decommissioning would occur and for some arms to be put out of use before political talks can start.

Sinn Fein's paper to Senator Mitchell suggests that instead of dumping arms to be collected by the authorities, the IRA might destroy their own caches. A picture of how violence might eventually be shut down has

finally emerged from the organisation which does the killing. Sinn Fein's document hints that independent verification of weapons destruction would be acceptable. This proposal is similar to one option which the British Government also put to Senator Mitchell, albeit accompanied by a warning that the public safety and verification rules would need attention.

The IRA has thus slid gently towards accepting the principle of decommissioning; its plans broadly overlap with a scheme which London does not rule out. If London can satisfy itself that the arrangements for verification are watertight, arms will be taken out of commission. Precisely who destroys them and how is secondary. If IRA pride requires do-it-yourself decommissioning, no additional risks need be run by agreeing to this change. Two of the three Washington Principles are satisfied.

That leaves "Washington Three": the requirement that some decommissioning occur before all-party talks. This is the hardest knot which Senator Mitchell has been asked to untie, because it is inherently political. All-party talks without Northern Ireland's Unionists will mean little and lead nowhere. The Unionists still smell a trap in the latest concession from Sinn Fein and remain wary. But David Trimble, their energetic leader, is busy suggesting additional forums for discussion designed to defuse the problem. Some Sinn Fein officials seem sympathetic. A small patch of common ground is visible. The work of those discussions of the future will be the breaking of the terrorist principle which has warped Northern Ireland's politics out of all natural shape. Intellectual decommissioning is the most important decommissioning of all.

DRESS FOR DINNER

Virgin olive oil and the middle-class mind

A worldwide shortage of olive oil would once have mattered as little to our cooks and diners as a dearth of asafoetida, biltong or cloudberries. But nothing has changed so much in recent times, not even the Labour Party, as have the customs in our kitchens. Now, reports of impending olive oil scarcity are more likely to induce alarm, even panic-buying, at supermarkets of this most Mediterranean of modern obsessions.

A shortage of the golden-green stuff, make no mistake, is upon us; and the implications are not trivial. Olive oil, available not so long ago only at Boots the Chemist — for such vital purposes as cleaning wax from small boys' ears — is now a supermarket staple. Where once we fried in fat, dripping and lard, we now drizzle our food with olive oil: on salad (rocket, of course), in fresh fish, aubergines, lamb, lentils, we use this lubricant liberally, both for its finer taste and for the better health it brings us. And where previous generations — going back, in some cases, a long way — came to adopt tea, coffee, chocolate and wine, the present generation is crazing itself in olive oil.

With the exception of Paul Gascoigne, who acquired a fondness for Mediterranean cuisine while playing poorly for Lazio, the taste for the oil is largely a middle-class matter. In fact, no definition of that class

would now be complete if it failed to take account of olive oil — the cooking-medium and salad-dressing seems as much a social determinant as educational and professional accomplishment, or sensible moral values.

The widespread belief that John Major is losing the support of the country's middle classes — and that Tony Blair is gaining it — may be due more to the following reason than to any other. Mr Blair gives the unmistakable impression that he is the sort of chap who uses olive oil daily: this makes him a man one can relate to. Forget "stakeholders" and other kinds of political dripping, just look at what the man dips his ciabatta into. Mr Major looks and sounds as if he has never tasted a single-estate Tuscan oil in his life. Warm ale and warm butter are out, say the swing voters. They want Olive Oil Man.

There is no evidence, of course, that a regular diet of olive oil makes for more efficient governance: look at Italy, Spain and Greece. Mr Major, in fact, might turn the bottle on his Labour opponent by smearing him with Islington's favourite. "Do you really want a man who fries his fish in olive oil?" he might tell a crowd in Basildon or Barnsley. "No" they will cry, in great derision. Meanwhile, in Islington and Isleworth they will scurry to the nearest supermarket to stock up for the drier days ahead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Royal prerogative on BBC selection

From Mr Leonard Miall

Sir, The suggestion by Sir Paul Fletcher (January 11) that the chairman of the BBC should be chosen from a list approved by a group of senior Privy Counsellors representing all parties, rather than nominated by the government of the day, is wise. It would also close a notable gap between theory and practice.

The chairman of the BBC, which has a royal charter, cannot be removed from office for political reasons. He is appointed by the Queen in Council, that is to say by the Monarch with at least four Privy Counsellors present, rather than directly by the Government. This important distinction has again been overlooked.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home made a point of consulting the Opposition before recommending to Her Majesty that Lord Normanbrook should be the next BBC chairman. This was the last time such a consultation occurred.

When Harold Wilson's plan to switch Lord Hill of Luton overnight from the Independent Television Authority to the BBC as Normanbrook's successor leaked, the appointment was immediately announced from 10 Downing Street.

The luckless Postmaster-General, Edward Short, had to pretend that the Queen had appointed Hill at an emergency meeting of the Privy Council held in her box at Goodwood races that afternoon. In fact she was put in the invidious position of having to rubber-stamp Hill's already announced appointment at a regular Privy Council meeting at Buckingham Palace two days later.

Marmaduke Hussey's first appointment as BBC chairman was also given out from Downing Street before a recommendation had been sent to the Privy Council.

And now they have done it again! Virginia Bottomley, who only has the power to recommend the appointment of Sir Christopher Bland, has arrogantly usurped the Queen's prerogative by announcing it as a *fait accompli* (report, January 10) before it has even been submitted to the Queen in Council.

This is discourteous, if not *lèse-majesté*.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD MIALL,
Maryfield Cottage, High Street,
Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire.
January 13.

From Mr John Wilkinson

Sir, Sir Paul Fox suggests that a senior all-party group of Privy Counsellors should be empowered to see a list of suitable candidates and then make the appointment. This is already the constitutional position in the 1981 charter: the chairman and all the governors of the BBC are appointed by the Queen in Council on the advice of the Government.

Traditionally, the Prime Minister always consulted the Leader of the Opposition first. This has not happened in recent years, with resultant suspicions that political appointments are being made.

Apart from the risk to the independence of the BBC, prime ministerial appointments without consultation are unfair to the chairman and governors, particularly when they have to demonstrate political impartiality.

Yours sincerely,
JOHNNY WILKINSON
(Secretary to the BBC, 1977-80),
Compass Cottage,
Box, Minchinhampton,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.
January 13.

From Mr Patrick Cox

Sir, In all the press coverage of the Granada bid for Forte (letters, January 13) I have read little concerning present or future customers of the hotels and eating-places involved.

I recall with fond memories the old Trust House and the merger with Forte and subsequent absorption by them. Customers were not pleased with the resultant cutting of staff, portions and corners by a group built up from a milk bar, so we believed.

History is repeating itself. Fortunately there are other establishments for us punters to patronise.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK COX,
Hollyburn, Bankfoot, Perth.

From Mrs Linda Bostock

Sir, I am grateful to Mr Ben Olds (letter, January 9) for his interest in my research on the average lifespan of people according to the wealth in their locality, and am also glad that he has managed to amass some wealth himself.

However, a key finding of the research was that continuing to amass wealth over a certain level (approximately £40,000) displayed diminishing returns in terms of benefit to health.

Mr Olds expressed an interest in further research on the relationship between lifespan and living in inner cities or rural suburbs and by a person's profession. Evidence for both of

these relationships is contained in my recently published *A New Social Atlas of Britain* (report, September 28, 1995).

Neither relationship appears to be as strong as that found with wealth, perhaps because one's location or profession are less accurate indicators of one's position in the social hierarchy than is wealth.

Almost no matter how you measure it, the rich tend to live longer than the poor, but the very rich tend not to benefit greatly from their additional wealth. It is thus not inconceivable that if we lived in a more equal society we would all, on average, live longer.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA BOSTOCK,
60 High Street, Slough, Berkshire.

Seeking relief from the misfortunes of the 'fourth age'

From the Chairman of Research into Ageing

Sir, Your timely series, "The science of ageing ageing" (January 8-11), could with advantage have given greater emphasis to the benefits which research can bring.

For those of our members who are approaching the "fourth age", having successfully negotiated their sixth and seventh decades, it is not ageing *per se* that is of concern: it is the likelihood of the onset of debilitating diseases and disabilities that destroy quality of life and independence.

High priority must be given to challenging dementia, blindness, incontinence, immobility and the other afflictions of old age. The scientists and medical professionals require greatly increased financial support in order to conduct the research which will help to ensure that the increasing number of 80, 90 and 100-year-olds enjoy their extra years.

May we also take you up on one point of detail. Macular degeneration — the loss of central vision — does not necessarily result in blindness, as implied in "Why sight fades with time" (January 10). Sufferers retain peripheral vision, but they can become registered as blind, which helps them to gain access to supplies, services and benefits. Devices are available which can make the most of the remaining vision, helping particularly with reading and watching television.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. NAYLOR
(Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist),
116 Harley Street, W1.
January 11.

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Jane Gordon looks in pretty good shape to me, no matter which part of middle age she assumes herself to be in ("The older woman's tale", January 8). I was sad to read her self-deprecating: for what may have been lost in

placement therapy following the menopause and indicate that the risk increases with the duration of the therapy (article, January 11).

However, the commonest cause of death following the menopause is a heart attack. It is generally accepted that HRT significantly protects a woman from dying from a heart attack. Therefore it follows that women taking HRT will live longer. In these extra years death from other conditions such as cancer of the breast will become more apparent.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village, Bodelyddan, Clwyd.
January 8.

From Mr Philip Dinnage

Sir, All this talk of hormone replacement therapy and libido.

There is an alternative cocktail available, which can be taken several times a day. Affection, warmth, support, praise, kisses and caresses. Free but, sadly, often in short supply.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DINNAGE,
10 Gorings Mead, Horsham, Sussex.

From Mr C. H. Naylor

Sir, Many surgeons are worried by the statistics which show an increased incidence in cancer of the breast among women who take hormone replacement therapy following the menopause.

Yours faithfully,
JANE CREASE,
Deer Park, Scampston,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
January 11.

From Mr Peter McGregor

Sir, When I was a young man I was sometimes rather surprised by what respondents to surveys of male sexual

activity said they could do. Now that I am an old man I am very surprised about what they say they cannot do ("Men can recover the passion of youth", January 9).

Yours faithfully,
PETER McGREGOR,
Dacre Cottage,
Longworth, Oxfordshire.

From Mr Cedric Hayes

Sir, I was gratified to read today that at my age, I am capable of sexual union once a week. All I need now is the opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC HAYES,
14 Thurleigh Road,
Didsbury, Manchester.
January 9.

Labour's latest words and policies

From Mr George Scales

Sir, Frank Field, MP ("Staking a claim to power", January 9; see also letters, January 11 and 13), asks whether "stakeholding" is just another buzzword. Sadly, yes. It has merely replaced the 1945 original Labour buzzword, "nationalisation" which many believed could replace capitalism without sacrificing efficiency.

Workers, trade union leaders and Labour politicians all believed that public ownership would remove the "them-us" stigma, avoid the need to strike and offer workers the incentive they needed to increase productivity.

It did none of those things: the abuse of power by the bosses was replaced by the abuse of power by the unions; productivity fell to an all-time low and the number of strikes became an international object of scorn. Stakeholding will fail for the same reason nationalisation did: it offers rewards for success but no penalties for failure.

Big wins in the lottery are only possible if there are also millions of lottery losers. Privatising the nationalised industries and allowing council tenants to buy their properties at a fraction of their market value, far from selling off the family silver, was in fact returning to taxpayers the money taken from them. Tony Blair should repeat 100 times the North Country saying, "You can't get out for now!"

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW HARRIS,
10 Eversley Close,
Droitwich, Worcestershire.

From Mr David Tipping

Sir, It matters not to me whether the water between Tory and Labour is red, blue or clear. I hope only that both parties will jump into it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TIPPING,
II Ardilane Road, NS.

These relationships are contained in my recently published *A New Social Atlas of Britain* (report, September 28, 1995).

Neither relationship appears to be as strong as that found with wealth, perhaps because one's location or profession are less accurate indicators of one's position in the social hierarchy than is wealth.

Almost no matter how you measure it, the rich tend to live longer than the poor, but the very rich tend not to benefit greatly from their additional wealth. It is thus not inconceivable that if we lived in a more equal society we would all, on average, live longer.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL DORLING,
University of Bristol,
Department of Geography,
University Road, Bristol, Avon.

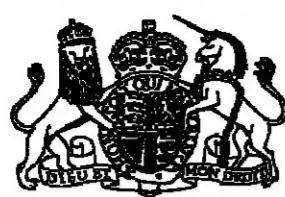
From Professor Piero Dolara

Sir, Your report on our discovery of the analgesic activity of myrrh wrongly states that it took "more than five minutes" before the mice given myrrh in experiments in this clinical department felt pain from a hot metal plate.

In fact, the mice remained painless on the hot plate for an average of 14 seconds without the administration of myrrh, and for 19.4 seconds after it was administered.

In this type of test mice are never left on the plate for more than 40 seconds. This is in order to avoid unnecessary pain damage and pain.

Yours etc,
PIERO DOLARA,
University of Florence,
Department of Preclinical and
Clinical Pharmacology,
Viale G. B.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 14: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe preached the sermon.

Mr Stephen Pocklington (Headteacher of Sandringham and West Newton Voluntary Aided

Primary School) was received by Her Majesty when The Queen presented a Bible to Miss Isabel Ramsay for proficiency in Religious instruction.

Princess Michael of Kent celebrates her 51st birthday today.

Birthdays today

Mr Robert Armstrong, racehorse trainer, 52; Mr Nick Ashley, designer, 39; Mrs Diana Barnato Walker, aviatrix, 78; Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, 53; Mr Chuck Berry, singer, 70; Mr Frank Bough, broadcaster, 63; Mr Neil Cossions, director, National Museum of Science and Industry, 57; Lord David of Garsington, 82; Mr Jane Drahos, director of education, BBC, 49; Mr Anthony Forbes, joint senior partner, Cassiopeia and Company, 58; Mr Rowland George, cormorant and England's oldest Olympic gold medallist, 91; Mr Gareth Hale, comedian, 43; the Hon Mrs Justice Hogg, 49; Sir John Junior, journalist, 77; Mr Nicholas Knightly, fashion designer, 39; Professor Peter Malis, inorganic chemist, 63; Professor Sir John of Glaistead, 85; Professor Sir John Smith, QC, professor of law, 74; Mr John Ternaire, author, 75; Sir John Worlie, barrister, 72.

Professor Anthony Raine

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Anthony Raine will take place at 1.30pm on Thursday, January 18, in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, London, EC1.

John Gordon Collier

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of John Gordon Collier, FRS, FEng, Chairman, Nuclear Electric plc, will be held at Gloucester Cathedral on Monday, January 22, 1996, at 2.30pm. For further details contact Maureen King on 01452 652822.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Molire, playwright, Paris, 1622; Louis de Rouvroy, Due de Saint-Simon, diarist, Paris, 1675; Pierre Proudhon, socialist, Besançon, France, 1809; Lewis Terman, pioneer of IQ tests, Johnson County, Indiana, 1877; Max Dela Roche, jeweller, Ontario, 1888; Alfred Osmund, racing manager, Smyrna, Turkey, 1906; Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, Nobel Peace laureate 1964, Atlanta, Georgia, 1929.

DEATHS: Emma Lady Hamilton, mistress of Lord Nelson, Calais, 1815; Fausto Kambor, actress, Brazil, 1993; Manfred Brady, American Civil War general, New York, 1896; Sean McBride, Irish statesman, Nobel Peace laureate 1974, Dublin, 1988.

Queen Elizabeth I was formally crowned Queen of England, 1559.

The British Museum opened at Montague House, London, 1759.

Forty people died when the ice broke on Regent's Park lake, London, 1861.

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, communist leaders, were murdered after the Spartacist uprising, Berlin, 1919.

The Aswan High Dam in Egypt was officially opened, 1970.

The team to reflect expanding pupil numbers. The Lady Northbourne prize for increased bilingualism will be awarded to two English and two French pupils in early March. The school choir will be performing in Brussels on April 19. The new whole-school computer network will be operational from today.

probably the best loved opera of all, will be performed on seven occasions, starting on the actual centenary date of its first production in Turin. The impresario Raymond Gubbay hopes that the "people's opera", as Puccini's masterpiece of Bohemian life in 19th-century Paris became known, will entice and encourage the thousands who enjoy music from opera but who never go to opera houses.

The production is directed by Michael Hunt and will feature some of the latest lighting and rigging technology to ensure that every seat in the Albert Hall will have a good view. The BBC Concert Orchestra will be conducted by James Lockhart. The two casts will include Katerina Kudravchenko and Susan Bullock (as Mimi) and José Álvarez and Arthur Davies (as Rodolfo).

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The site, at Sabi Abyad in the upper valley of the Balikh, a tributary of the Euphrates close to the Turkish border, has been excavated since 1986 by Peter Akkermans and Marc Verhoeven of The Netherlands National Museum in Leiden. The recent season penetrated to a level of 800-600 BC and uncovered well-preserved buildings affected by a violent fire.

Among the finds were tools of flint, obsidian and ground stone, human and animal figurines, and hundreds of clay sealings made with button-shaped stamps. The designs included ibex or goats with long curving horns, plants, and geometric figures such as spoked wheels and chevrons. More than 60 different seals were identified.

Such seals are thought to indicate ownership, but since no goods were found at Sabi Abyad it is possible that the goods were produced and sealed elsewhere and imported to the village. "They preserved a mode of communication in a stylised, symbolic manner," the investigators say.

Conical, cylindrical, and spherical "tokens", thought to have been used for counting, add to the impression of mercantile activity.

The wide distribution of the sealings across the site suggests that trade was general, not in the hands of a elite. Their quantity indicates that foreign commodities came in very large numbers, either as the result of regional exchange or as tributes and gifts", the investigators claim.

They suggest that stockbreeding provided some of the goods, such as hides, and that surplus farm production underwrote the manufacture of textiles or other crafts.

The houses were large, with many small rooms, perhaps the homes of extended families; the striking regularity and planning recalls settlements such as Tell Bouqras on the Euphrates. "The Burnt Village is the most outstanding example of local community organisation known for this period, part of extensive networks of long and short-distance exchange," the excavators conclude.

The burnt village at Sabi Abyad marks a transition from simpler communities to more complex ones, from the villages which had marked early settlement in the Near East for centuries to the emergence of trade networks and the development of the first towns.

Sabi Abyad seems also to have been a long-lived community, from which in the next few centuries other villages budded off to begin a recolonisation of abandoned areas.

Source: *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol 99, 5-32

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J.W. Allen and Miss Zhang Zhang

The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs Richard Allen, of Harefield, Sussex, and Zhang Zhang, daughter of Professors Zhang Jing-Wu and Zhang Mei-Qi, of Anhui Province, China. Lieutenant I.G. Annett, RN, and Miss S.D. Perrette

The engagement is announced between Ian Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs Doreen and Sophie Dominique, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.N.F. Perrette, of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr S.R. Barstow and Mrs D.E. O'Brien

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of the late Mr R.G. Barstow and of Mrs Helen Barstow, of Whitchurch, Oxfordshire, and Diana O'Brien, of Dorchester, Dorset, eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Alan Cleare.

Mr A.M.W. Dunn and Miss K.A. Daley

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Dunn, of Glasgow, and Kristen, daughter of Major and Mrs Thomas Daley, of Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Mr J.M. Fraser and Miss E.S. Coyne

The engagement is announced between James Munro, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel Ian M. Fraser, OBE, and Mrs Fraser, of Brechin, Angus, and Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Coyne, of Netherley, Aberdeen.

Mr D.C. Turner and Miss R.E. Bellamy

The engagement is announced between David Charles, second son of Mr and Mrs James Turner, of Tetsworth, Wolverhampton, and Rachel Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Bellamy, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N. Wailey and Miss L.S. Fielder

The engagement is announced between "Natal", eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wailey, of West Norwood, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Fielder, of Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Z. Zaman and Miss S.E. Morgan

The engagement is announced between Zia, only son of Mr and Mrs Shams Zamani, of Toronto, Canada, and Siti Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Morgan, of Erw Glwg, Merthyr Mawr, Mid Glamorgan.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Alexandra, as president, will attend a reception at the Mansion House at 6.30 to mark the 80th anniversary of the opening of The Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.

Royal Institute of International Affairs

The meeting which was to have been addressed by Dr Khalil Shikaki on Tuesday, January 16, 1996, has been postponed to Monday, March 25, 1996, at 5.30pm.

Northbourne Park

The Spring Term begins today. Seven new members of staff join



People's opera heads for its centenary

FIONA FAIRS, 10, centre above, and others of the Finchley Children's Music Group of north London, come together for a rehearsal of the centenary production of *La Bohème* at the Royal Albert Hall. The children, trained by volunteers, have performed with most of the big orchestras and at many of the major concert and opera venues. The £2 million arena production of *La Bohème*,

probably the best loved opera of all, will be performed on seven occasions, starting on the actual centenary date of its first production in Turin. The impresario Raymond Gubbay hopes that the "people's opera", as Puccini's masterpiece of Bohemian life in 19th-century Paris became known, will entice and encourage the thousands who enjoy music from opera but who never go to opera houses.

The production is directed by Michael Hunt and will feature some of the latest lighting and rigging technology to ensure that every seat in the Albert Hall will have a good view. The BBC Concert Orchestra will be conducted by James Lockhart. The two casts will include Katerina Kudravchenko and Susan Bullock (as Mimi) and José Álvarez and Arthur Davies (as Rodolfo).

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR SETON LLOYD

Professor Seton Lloyd, CBE, FBA, archaeologist, died on January 7 aged 93. He was born on May 30, 1902.

SETON LLOYD earned an international reputation as an archaeologist. Most of his work in the field took place in Iraq and in Turkey and is associated with many successful expeditions. He applied a natural artistic sensibility and draughtsman's skill to his archaeology, which was distinguished by these endowments. Industrious and methodical, he wrote more than a dozen books of which the best known was probably *Foundation in the Dust*, first published in 1947 and reissued in 1980.

Educated at Uppingham School, Seton Howard Frederick Lloyd had a natural bent for drawing which led him to study architecture. Qualifying as an architect in 1926, he joined the office of Sir Edwin Lutyens. After two years there he left to enter into a partnership which might well have led to a lifetime devoted to architecture.

Instead, however, within a year he was recruited by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The institute at that time was organising a series of major expeditions in the Middle East, inspired by the dominant personality of J. H. Breasted who, in turn, had captured the patronage of John D. Rockefeller.

Lloyd's first major achievement in Iraq was the rediscovery, in partnership with T. Jacobsen, of a long-forgotten aqueduct at Jervan, whence in about 700 BC Sennacherib had conducted a canal which ran for a distance of some 20 miles from Bavian on the headwaters of the River Gomel to Nineveh.

Lloyd's training as an architect enabled him to appreciate and expand with a rare insight the technical achievements of the ancient Assyrian hydraulic engineers. His drawings and observations were embodied in an exemplary publication which appeared in 1935.

Thereafter Lloyd enhanced his archaeological reputation by his invaluable collaboration in work which his Chicago expeditions were then conducting in the Diyala Valley, north of Baghdad — principally by his excavation of the Shara Temple at Tell Agrab and the Abu Temple at Tell Asmar. This work was of cardinal importance for our understanding of Early Dynastic Babylonia, 3000-2300 BC, and the relation of it was incorporated in a volume entitled *Pre-Sargonic Temples in the Diyala Region* (1942), and in a second volume written in collaboration with Frankfort and Jacobsen under the title *The Gimilsin Temple and the Palace of the Rulers at Tell Asmar* (1940).

After the death of Breasted many of



the American expeditions were either closed down or curtailed and Lloyd left Iraq in order to join John Garstang's expeditions to Mersin in southern Turkey, 1937-39. For the next ten years his services were devoted to Iraq as technical adviser to the Directorate General of Antiquities. During this time he was fully engaged in supervising the organisation of the Antiquities Department in Iraq and in training a new generation of Iraqis for the sole responsibility in administration. For these services alone he deserves considerable credit. But he also in this decade assisted, in partnership with his Iraqi colleagues, particularly with Fuad Safar, in several major excavations, notably at Eridu, the most important post-diluvian city in Babylonia. These excavations were complementary to a smaller undertaking at Hassuna, where — once more in conjunction with Fuad Safar — he discovered a settlement which coincided with the beginning of village life in Assyria. No less interesting were the department's excavations at Tell Uqair, not far from Babylon, where

Lloyd's highly skilled field technique succeeded in salvaging painted murals from a temple which had been erected in about 3000 BC. Lloyd's own wide architectural interests appear from his excavation report on the early Islamic mosque at Wasit.

On the retirement of John Garstang, he became Director of the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara, Turkey, a post which he occupied with distinction from 1949 to 1961. He was appointed OBE in 1949, advanced to CBE in 1959 and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1955.

His work in Turkey led to further notable discoveries. Together with D. Storm Rice, he conducted a new survey of Harran and this led to the discovery by the later of the memorial stela of the mother of Nabonidus, last King of Babylon, a venerable old lady who lived to the age of 104 and was buried with the pomp and ceremony due to a priestess of the Harran Moon Temple. Lloyd also made fruitful soundings at the site of Sultantepe, some miles to the north, where he exposed a large building of the

His wife, whom he had married in 1944, died in 1987. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.

JOYCE BALDWIN CAINE

Joyce Baldwin Caine, theological educator and writer, died on December 30 aged 74. She was born on August 1, 1921.

JOYCE BALDWIN CAINE was one of the leading Evangelical women scholars of her day. Although she would have been a remarkable woman in any context, what was so exceptional about Joyce Caine was her determination to develop those gifts in herself which the Church of England did not traditionally value in women. She championed the cause of women's ministry by example as well as by her influential writing and teaching.

Joyce Baldwin, as she was before marriage, began her professional career in Lancashire as a teacher of modern languages and religious education, but as a student she was attracted to missionary work in China. In 1947 she was accepted for training by the China Inland Mission, and chose to combine this with studying for the London Diploma in Theology and London University's external Bachelor of Divinity degree. While teaching full-time, she obtained her own divinity degree and subsequently became Vice-Principal and later Principal of Dalton House. In 1964, at a time when women biblical scholars were a rare breed, especially in the Evangelical fold, Baldwin published her first paper in an academic journal. Two years later she began work on the first of six commentaries on the book of the Old Testament.

In 1972 Dalton House merged with two men's colleges in Bristol to form Trinity College. One-third of the students in this new institution were women, and four



women tutors from Dalton House comprised a third of the staff. Joyce Baldwin became Dean of Women, a position which theoretically gave her full responsibility for women students. In practice, however, she discovered that her decisions could be countermanded by male colleagues, a situation symptomatic of the marginalised status of women in the Church at large.

Baldwin addressed the issues of women's ministry in the Church of England in a

booklet published in 1973. Among other things, she argued from careful exegesis that biblical passages often thought to exclude women from ministry actually implied no such thing. She was a member of the Movement for the Ordination of Women and arranged two of its Bristol conferences. She had seen women's abilities given freedom to develop in missionary work overseas and in secular teaching, and regarded the situation in the Church as not

only unscriptural but also illogical and unjust. She made her views known firmly but always without bitterness and often with gentle humour.

In 1981 the Principal of

Trinity College, the Rev Alec Motyer, retired and the Rev Dr George Carey (now the Archbishop of Canterbury) was appointed to replace him, but could not take up the post until 1982. Although on the brink of retirement, Joyce Baldwin was persuaded to stay on as Principal for the intervening year. She held the post alongside that of Dean of Women.

The day before her retirement in 1982 she received a telephone call from a man she had known as a teenager but had not seen for 42 years. She and Jack Caine arranged to meet and the following year they were married. Baldwin was writing her commentary on the Book of Esther at the time, and remarked that the extraordinary coincidences in that biblical book became entirely credible in the light of events in her own life.

The freedom of retirement and the support of her husband released a fresh spate of writing. In 1987 she was among the first women to be ordained to the diaconate of the Church of England. However, in 1994, when ordination to the priesthood became open to women, she did not go forward, feeling that her calling had already been fulfilled. She is survived by her husband.

SIR MAXWELL HARPER GOW

Sir Maxwell Harper Gow, MBE, businessman, died on January 1 aged 77. He was born on June 13, 1918.

MAX HARPER GOW was well known as one of the outstanding Scottish men of business of the postwar era. Paradoxically, however, it was outside Scotland that most of the diversification and growth of his company — Christian Salvesen — was achieved.

The company had been founded by his maternal great-grandfather and was firmly established in the fields of shipping and whaling by the next two generations of the family; but it was not until after the end of the Second World War, when the young Harper Gow joined the business, that its direction started to change.

A discussion of the site, which was founded in prehistoric times, inevitably provides a debating ground for scholars in search of Luvians, Greek-speakers and even Achaeans. It was, therefore, disappointing that no documents were found to illuminate the record which had probably been written on wooden and waxed tablets and had long ago perished. There were forests in the countryside and it is thus not surprising that much evidence of timber construction was found.

From 1965 onwards Seton Lloyd was engaged in the excavation of a magnificent Urartian fortress named Kayalidere, which was situated not far from Mush in eastern Turkey, a township of great interest because its fortunes could be closely linked with those of its greater rival and powerful enemy, Assyria. It was a disappointment for archaeology that this work, so happily inaugurated, later had to be suspended.

Lloyd was in 1962 elected to the chair of Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. In his seven years in this post students were very fortunate to benefit from his wide experience.

After his retirement in 1969 Lloyd continued to write and to travel. He returned to Iraq and visited Iran. He and his wife Ulrica, whose maiden name was Hyde and who was known to everyone as Hydie, always provided a warm welcome to ex-students. Lloyd's memoirs, based on letters to his mother and to Hydie during their periods of separation, appeared in 1987 under the title of *The Interval*. A further book, *Ancient Turkey*, came out in 1989.

His wife, whom he had married in 1944, died in 1987. He is survived by two sons and one daughter.



public UK companies which did useful work in preaching to Whitehall the significance to the economy of private companies. The group commissioned research into the reform of trade union law because it saw such reform as the precondition for restoring industrial health to the United Kingdom. Harper Gow was knighted on the nomination of Margaret Thatcher in 1985.

In his younger days he had been a first-class shot and was the enthusiastic owner of a winning steeplechaser. Later he derived great pleasure from his hill farm in the Ettrick Forest which he took pride in showing to his band of devoted friends.

He is survived by his wife Lilian, a daughter and two sons.

TEENY DUCHAMP

Teeny Duchamp, widow of Marcel Duchamp, died in Villiers-sous-Grez, France, on December 20 aged 89. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1906.

THROUGH her two marriages, the first to Pierre Matisse, a gallery owner and son of Henri Matisse, and the second to the artist Marcel Duchamp, Teeny Duchamp came into contact with the principal developments in modern art. Through her first husband she was familiar with Matisse and the Fauves. With Duchamp she came to understand Dada and Surrealism.

As a schoolgirl in Cincinnati, Alexina (Teeny) Sattler fell the influence of art. Her father, a physician, was a cultured man; her mother, who had been brought up in Florence, was well acquainted with the European art world and herself an accomplished violinist. Teeny was sent to Europe to complete her education at a school in Neuilly-sur-Seine, and through art classes at La Grande Chaumière. The sculptor Brancusi admired her work, and the two formed a lifelong friendship.

In 1929 she married Pierre Matisse after a passionate Parisian courtship. They moved to New York where he opened an art gallery. Working closely with him, she helped to introduce Henri Matisse's work to the American art world.

In 1934 they held the first American exhibition of Matisse's work and in 1936 showed his studies for *Dance*.

Further important Matisse exhibitions followed. At their country home, Teeny Matisse assembled round her dining table an array of artists fresh from Europe. But she gradually grew to feel cramped in her relationship with Pierre

entitled *Wedge of Chastity*. As the recipient of the two interlocking pieces of plaster which made up this sculpture, she was intended to become part of the very fabric of Duchamp's art.

In Duchamp's 1957 *Waistcoat*, the five buttons each bear her name and in 1964 when replicas of Duchamp's "ready made" *With Hidden Noise* — two squares of brass with a ball of twine between them within which something to which Duchamp was not privy was hidden — were created it was Teeny who put

the secret object inside the twine. When in 1963 a series of limited editions of Duchamp's 1935 *Rotorelief* (optical discs) were re-created, she helped her husband to assemble them.

Art aside, they shared many interests, the most important being chess (although, once Duchamp had taught her to play, they made a pact never to pit their wits against each other).

In 1968 she and Duchamp collaborated with the composer John Cage in *Reunion*, a legendary but long-winded and pretentious chess game piece staged at the Ryerson Polytechnic High School, Toronto. A special chess board was built to include a system of photo-electric cells that registered the chess moves with a series of different sounds. An outraged audience vented its opinion by voting with its feet — the auditorium was empty long before the piece was over.

Later that year Duchamp died and four years later Teeny moved back to France to Villiers-sous-Grez. Her last visit to England was as guest of honour, with John Cage, at the Tate Gallery symposium *Art and Chess* in 1991. She was also the guest of honour at the qualifying chess matches held in Brussels later that year where in a match between Nigel Short, the English chess champion, and Gelfand whom he beat, the receptacle from which each contestant drew the colour he was to play was a replica of Duchamp's *Urinal*.

After her death her ashes were interred beside his in a tomb which bore Duchamp's chosen inscription: "Besides, it's always the others who die."

Teeny Duchamp is survived by three children from her first marriage. Her daughter and one of her two sons are artists.

Church appointments

Appointments

The Rev Jackie Hughes, Assistant Curate (NS), to be course tutor (NS), West Midlands Ministerial Training Course, The Queen's College, Birmingham.

The Rev Robert Leach, Assistant Curate, St Lawrence, Worcester (Peterborough), to be Priest in Charge of St Lawrence, Cowley (London).

The Rev Trevor Mapstone, Assistant Curate, St Thomas, Lancaster (Blackburn), to be Vicar, Trinity St. Michael, Hartrow (London).

The Rev Sheila Nunney, Curate, Walsall, to be Chaplain in the Norfolk and Norwich, West Norfolk and Colchester Hospitals (Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare NHS Trust) Norwich.

The Rev Rodger Thorp, Vicar in the Exe Valley Team, to be Priest in Charge of Dilton, Iddesleigh with Cowden and Monktonhampstead (Exeter).

Sparkenhoe East Deanery, to be Priest in Charge of Thornton, Bagworth and Stanton (Leicester).

The Rev Frederick Williams, Vicar of Rillington w/ Scampton, Wintringham and Thorpe Bassett, to continue as Rural Dean of Buckrose for a further period of five years (Kirkby Lonsdale).

The Rev Paul Wilson, Vicar, Baddesley with Dean Prior (Exeter), to be Priest in Charge of Stockton, Downton, Kilmington and Shute (Exeter).

Canon John Wesson, Rector, St Martin-in-the-Bull-Ring, Birmingham, to be Director of CME & POT Training (Lichfield).

The Rev Anthony Whalley, Rector, Newton Longville, Stoke Hamdon and Whaddon, to be Rector, Winslow with Great Horwood and Addington (Oxford).

The Rev John White, Vicar of Chapelthorpe, to be Rural Dean of Cheve (Wakefield).

The Rev David Baker, Vicar, Baddesley with Downton, Dishforth and Skipton on Swale, to retire on July 1, 1996 (York).

The Rev John S Barnes, Vicar, Bentley, to retire on January 31, 1996 (Lichfield).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev John V Andrews, Rector, Seaton Ross Group of Parishes, to retire at the end of October 1996 (York).

The Rev Anthony Whalley, Rector, Newton Longville, Stoke Hamdon and Whaddon, to retire on November 30, 1995 (Birmingham).

Canon G T Willett, Rector, of Markfield and Rural Dean of

The Rev Keith Elwood, Priest-in-Charge, Cobham (Chichester); retired on December 31, 1995.

Canon David Fricker, Rector, Brightling, Dallington, Mountfield and Netherfield, and Rural Dean of Dallington (Chichester), to continue as Rural Dean on December 31, 1995.

The Rev Charles Kerr, Vicar, St Mark, Anlaby Common, resigned on December 31, 1995 (York).

Canon Alan Treheme, Team Rector, St Stephen, Gatten, to retire on April 7, 1996 (Liverpool).

The Rev Thomas Willis, Vicar, Bridlington, Holy Trinity and Sewerby with Marton (York) to retire October 31, 1996.

Canon John Wilson, Rector, Holy Trinity, Horfield (Bristol) to retire on June 15, 1996.

The Rev Richard Spencer, Christian Aid Research Secretary, and World Development Officer, has resigned with effect from November 30, 1995 (Birmingham).

Whitbread, to retire on January 31, 1996 (Lichfield).

NEW SONGS OF PURCELL

HIS INFINITE VARIETY.

Dr Arthur Somervell has done a very good thing in editing and publishing as one of Messrs Novello's handy series of song albums, "Seventeen Songs by Purcell". None of these is a song which everybody knows, and some of them are songs which nobody knows, because they have never been published.

The chief good of Dr. Somervell's volume is that it puts the hands of every singer who has the wish to sing Purcell some of the most delightful specimens of his genius, and offers them in a practicable form which is a very different thing from the library edition of the Purcell Society. It is a reprint in English of musical lovers that that society, founded 50 years ago, has not yet been able to complete its long-delayed complete edition solely for lack of funds to print and publish.

Perhaps the Purcell Society itself might have avoided reproach if it had taken a less academic view of its responsibilities and had concentrated not only on the production of a library edition, but had adopted a policy akin to that of Dr. Fellowes' "English Madrigal School" and the Carnegie Trust's "Tudor Music", both of which issue cheap performing

ON THIS DAY

January 15, 1927

NEWS

New commandments for schools

Schools must adopt a modern ten commandments to give children a moral grounding, and teach them the difference between right and wrong, the Government's chief curriculum adviser will say today.

The rules should be agreed nationally to underpin everything taught in schools, Dr Nick Tate will tell a conference in London. Dr Tate sees schools filling a void left by the diminishing authority of the Church. Page 1

Drugged monk 'killed British tourist'

A Buddhist monk murdered the missing British lawyer Johanne Masheder during a robbery, Thai police said. The monk, a convicted rapist, is said to have confessed to killing Miss Masheder, 23, while high on drugs. Her body was found near a Buddhist temple west of Bangkok. Pages 1, 3

Drivers' rush

A stampede of learner drivers desperate to take their tests before the summer has been triggered by the announcement that they will have to sit a written examination from July 1. Page 1

Lottery boost

Camelot is to introduce special weekly "Superdraws" in the next six months with prizes boosted by National Lottery reserve funds. Page 1

Union warning

Ken Livingstone predicted a resurgence of trade union power under a future Labour Government as he undermined efforts by Tony Blair to rebut Tory criticism of his big idea of a "stakeholder economy". Pages 2, 16, 17

Scargill party

Arthur Scargill accused Tony Blair of embracing the capitalist "devil" as he announced that he would be resigning from the Labour Party in a few days to carry on the class war under the banner of his breakaway party. Page 2

Disappearing dog

A champion pedigree dog worth £30,000 has vanished shortly before it was due to compete for a top prize at Crufts. Page 3

Race comes alive

The Republican presidential race spluttered into life with a remarkably cafty televised debate between the candidates. Page 10

10,000 head for Indian wedding

The Hinduja family, the world's richest Indians and the sixth richest Britons, have tied up Bombay for a wedding. They have invited 10,000 guests so that there is not a vacant hotel room in the city. The reception will cater for 6,000 and the invitation comes with a 48-page book explaining the "essence of Vedic marriage for success and happiness". Page 9



Jonathan Steers, left, and Jamie Levy sound Reveille in London to launch the Royal British Legion's 75th anniversary. Page 6

BUSINESS

Aircraft order: British Airways has invited tenders from aircraft manufacturers to supply up to 60 new regional jet aircraft. Page 40

Profit-sharing: British Gas is pressing for a profit-share clause in the next price cap on TransCo, its core subsidiary, which runs the gas pipeline system. Page 15

Plan for justice: Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, called on those involved in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal to work together to achieve a just settlement. Page 40

War rages on: The war of words continued between Sir Rocco Forde and Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, as Granada's bid for the hotel group rumbles to its conclusion next week. Page 40

Granada's bid: Granada's bid for the Forte hotel empire has joined the few financial battles to dominate City wine bar chatter. Page 6, 17, 40

Dini's dilemma

Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister brought in a year ago to save Italy from chaos, faces an uncertain future after his latest resignation. Page 10

Weathercall: Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheapest rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

FEATURES

Royal bond: The deep bond between the Queen and her sister is examined in today's instalment of *Elizabeth*. Pages 12, 13

Pure terror: "I would simply lie in bed waiting for it to happen, screwing up my eyes as tight as possible." Melvyn Bragg on his "out of body experiences". Page 15

Justman speaks: The South African jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela is arriving in London for a Festival Hall concert and he is bringing his politics with him. Page 33

State of verse: Poetry needs all the support it can get. Maybe tonight's T.S. Eliot Prize can make some difference. Page 32

London theatre: Bejeman's poetry becomes a musical revue while Jean Rhys's *Voyage in the Dark* is adapted for the stage. Page 32

Second thoughts: Birtwistle's *Paradise* is deemed a musical success after a repeat performance by John Harle with the LPO. Page 32

21, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 48. Bonus: 25

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